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Thursday, October 8th 2015

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Jobs and homes pledged in depot revamp

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to spark a boom in business at the former Parsons Green Depot site could bring hundreds of new jobs to Fulham, Transport for London has claimed.

The transport provider is planning a major redevelopment of the depot, with new homes and commercial units earmarked for the site.

Outline plans will be submitted to Hammersmith and Fulham Council by the end of the year, setting out TfL's vision for the depot.

Initial proposals detail new office space and studios geared towards boosting local businesses, with the poten-

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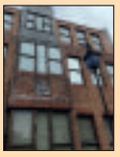
■ EYES ON THE PRIZE: Members from more than 50 neighbourhood watch groups across Hammersmith and Fulham came together to discuss crime issues in the borough. The Neighbourhood Watch Association's annual general meeting heard that theft remains the most common offence, although burglary rates are actually on the decline. Chairman David Millar (right) said the network now covers 200 streets across the borough. Mr Millar presented the association's Douglas Hurd Cup to Pat Cosgrave (left) from Hammersmith and Fulham Council's community safety unit for his "tireless" work in developing local neighbourhood watch projects.



Mayor accused of attacking Fulham police service: P3

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NEW PACKAGE OF MEASURES SHOULD MAKE ROAD JOURNEYS EASIER

Autumn offensive to reduce congestion

THE Mayor of London has unveiled new measures Transport for London is introducing to ease traffic in the capital and minimise disruption on the roads as major work to improve the network continues.

The Mayor tasked TfL with developing new ways to ease disruption while they transform the capital's roads through the £4bn Road Modernisation Plan. Last week he visited TfL's Traffic Control Centre to see for himself the work that is keeping the capital's roads moving. The innovations include:

■ **Trials of new technology** – for the first time on the TfL Road Network a new generation of digital road signs will provide people with real-time information on journeys using major routes into London. The signs will initially be trialled on the A12, A13 and A40. TfL is also trialling a new operating system of temporary traffic lights that can be remotely controlled from TfL's traffic control centre. This will mean the phasing of traffic lights can be changed quickly and efficiently by staff at the control centre to improve traffic flow and cut delays through roadwork areas.

■ **A London 2012 Games-style 24/7 communication campaign** – each day TfL keeps its 450,000 @tfltrafficnews followers and website users up to date with the very latest traffic information and the calendar of works being carried out so people can plan ahead. Now four years old, the account is one of the most followed traffic news accounts in the world, with more followers than all Highways England travel feeds combined. The website has also recently been updated with a rainbow-board to alert people to delays on key arterial roads, as well as having detailed maps with anticipated disruption for the coming months, particularly during peak hours. The predicted traffic impact of works is also clearly highlighted to residents and businesses through maps and leaflets, while companies can search on a postcode-by-postcode basis to ensure that any potential delays are factored into their planning of deliveries.

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

■ **Expanding the use of road junction technology**, including the world-leading 'Split Cycle Offset Optimisation Technique' (SCOOT) to optimise traffic light timings in outer London. The introduction of SCOOT has proven to reduce delays by up to 12 per cent at each junction where it has been installed. By May 2016, almost 4,000 sites will be using this technology across London – double the number since the Mayor came to power in May 2008. By 2018, more than three-quarters of London's 6,000 junctions will be upgraded with SCOOT, helping to manage and reduce congestion.

■ **Working with sat-nav companies** – the Mayor and TfL are encouraging firms to take advantage of the latest technology by using TfL's extensive data feeds to update sat-navs so motorists can be provided with real-time TfL information as they drive, ensuring they can take the most appropriate routes.

These pioneering measures are being developed to accompany existing ongoing work to ease congestion, including:

■ Dynamically managing London's road network using the 24/7 traffic control centre – the team manages traffic 24 hour a day, utilising state of the art technology to ensure junctions and routes are managed effectively in real-time.

■ Managing incidents and congestion hot spots through the Roads Policing Units – targeted police enforcement is carried out at the busiest locations and known hotspots to boost safety for all road users and reduce delays.

■ Working with the freight industry to retime deliveries to avoid the busiest times – an online road impact tool allows freight operators to see works up to 12 months ahead to understand the impact for each set of works. With 90 per cent of goods moved around London by road, TfL also continues to provide tailored advice to boroughs, operators, businesses and others to help them re-time deliveries to occur outside the peak times of 07:00-13:00 or routing them away from the busiest locations.

■ A 'Lane Rental scheme' which targets roadworks at the busiest locations and busiest times. It is already seeing over 90 per cent of work carried out during quieter periods – massively reducing disruption. All surplus money raised through the Lane Rental scheme is reinvested into measures to further reduce the disruption. These include the trials of the temporary traffic signals announced today, new Automatic Roadwork Monitoring cameras to allow TfL to better determine whether work is taking place and better use of rapid cure reinstatement materials to help reopen roads quicker, significantly reducing traffic disruption.

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JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS
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Philip Evans (Editor)
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Editorial email:
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Depot redevelopment could create hundreds of new jobs

FROM PAGE 1

tial for 300 jobs to be created. But questions have been raised over the livelihoods of workshop tenants who currently rent business space on the site, while neighbouring residents have also criticised elements of the scheme.

TfL is proposing to build several new homes – some affordable – while creating public open spaces and footways to improve access between Parsons Green and the wider area.

The plans have been put to Fulham residents as part of a public consultation exercise taking place this autumn. If council planners give the green light, construction work could get under way in 2017.

TfL says the site provides an opportunity to "positively contribute" to the local area.

But it is not yet clear whether the community of craftsmen and artisan traders will be forced out if the development goes ahead.

Councillor Andrew Brown, one of the area's local ward members, called on TfL to ensure all existing tenants were "treated with respect".

He said: "There is a huge housing challenge that London faces and, in principle, I am supportive of TfL making better use of its property assets.

"However, where that sometimes falls down is in the impact on the lives of real people who occupy those sites.

"TfL has to show proper consideration and care for the tenants on the site. There has to be an opportunity for them to stay on the site where possible."

Cllr Brown added: "I do have concerns that we are moving towards a London where these creative industries are being pushed out and it is something we need to reflect on very seriously.

"If this site does not work it should not be followed through regardless. We do not want to see people's livelihoods destroyed."

Local residents' associations have raised concerns about the scale and height of the development and warned that residential streets could become 'rat runs' for football fans making the trip to Stamford Bridge.

The depot is currently home to several workshop businesses as well as the popular Andrew Robson Bridge Club.

The site was opened in 1880 but is now set for redevelopment after being safeguarded until 2011 as part of initial plans for Crossrail 2.

TfL says the old buildings have a poor relationship with the surrounding area and are badly in need of regeneration.

A spokesman said: "We are proposing a development which makes the most of the location at the centre of Parsons Green and the opportunity to deliver a blend of new homes, commercial space and wider community benefits."

As well as the new homes and business facilities, TfL plans to:

- Create several new public spaces and a walking route through the site
- Develop a future access point between the site and Fulham Court
- Introduce shops, cafes and restaurants.

Its consultation briefing says: "Our proposals would add to the vitality and character of Parsons Green by providing new retail and commercial space, some fronting Parsons Green Lane.

"The proposed development would also open up the site, introducing new public open spaces and links to improve connections across the wider area."

TfL is expected to submit a formal planning application by the end of this year.

■ FUTURE VIEW: An artist's interpretation of how the Parsons Green Depot site development could look.

Mayor accused of attack on borough police service

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE Mayor of London has been accused of "attacking" police services in Fulham, following the sudden announcement of plans to downgrade the local station.

A senior councillor leaped on Boris Johnson last week, urging him to "come clean" about how the proposals will affect policing in the borough.

Councillor Michael Cartwright, deputy leader of Hammersmith and Fulham Council, criticised plans to sell the station and raised questions about the future of front-line services.

The site has been earmarked as a permanent new home for the Fulham Boys School, which is expected to make the move in time for the start of the 2017 academic year.

A spokesman for the Met said a 'front counter' service would be retained at the Fulham Road site and that all teams currently based there would be moved to an as yet unidentified building "in the immediate area".

Cllr Cartwright, who is also the council's cabinet member for crime and anti-social behaviour, said the downgrading of the station was "yet another example of police services in the borough being attacked by the government and the Mayor of London".

He added: "Fulham residents need a fully functional police station. The Mayor must come clean about what the sale of the building means for a police presence in a fast-growing area.

"He has said that there will be a front counter service, but what does that mean? How will response times be affected in emergencies? How many officers will be stationed in Fulham after much of the station is closed?"

Last week police chiefs delayed a decision on whether to scrap all 24 of Hammersmith and Fulham's police community support officers, as part of wider cost-cutting plans affecting the whole of the capital.

Cllr Cartwright said local police services were already stretched due to government cuts and that further reductions were "unacceptable".

He added: "We are very concerned about what these plans will mean for residents."

The Education Funding Agency has agreed to buy the Fulham station site from MOPAC – the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime – creating 800 new secondary school places.

Announcing the sale last month, Mr Johnson said the station would make an "ideal" home for the school while helping to meet the capital-wide demand for places.

There are currently eight 'safer neighbourhood teams' – 77 officers – based at Fulham police station. A further 169 officers across five emergency response teams also operate from the site.

A spokesman for the Met told *The Chronicle* that all teams currently based at the station would be accommodated in a dedicated facility in a neighbouring building. The new facility will be ready for teams to move into before the station is exchanged.

The spokesman added: "We are currently working with local partners to finalise the location of the safer neighbourhood team base but this will be in the immediate area."

■ ALL CHANGE: Fulham police station has been earmarked as a permanent new home for the Fulham Boys School.

Move to ease fears of housing sell-off

HOUSING chiefs have given reassurances about Hammersmith and Fulham's stock of council homes, following warnings that more than half may have to be sold off.

National housing and homelessness charity Shelter claimed in a report last month that forthcoming government reforms would force councils to sell many of their higher value properties as they become vacant.

According to the charity's projections, Hammersmith and Fulham could lose 50.3 per cent of its most valuable stock – around 6,000 homes.

Responding to the report, the borough council's cabinet member for housing, Councillor Lisa Homan, insisted that the number of properties likely to become vacant was "quite small".

But she suggested the Government's plans to extend the 'Right to Buy' scheme would be "devastating" for many councils.

"It exacerbates what is already a pretty diabolical problem in London for finding homes for people who need them," she said. "It is a back-of-the-fag-packet policy made in the run-up to the general election. Aspects of it have not been very well thought through."

The proposed scheme would force councils to sell homes worth more than a set threshold once they become vacant. The money would then be used to fund discounts for housing association tenants taking up the 'Right to Buy'.

The Government estimates that the scheme will raise £4.5 billion each year but Shelter warns that Hammersmith and Fulham would lose 6,301 homes – more than 50 per cent of its stock.

Cllr Homan added: "We have worked really hard with residents over the last 18 months to make sure that our housing policy reflects their views because we firmly believe in doing things with people rather than to them.

"Unfortunately, this top down policy undoes a lot of the really good work we have done, which is really disappointing given that the Government are supposed to have an agenda of localism."

Politics pupils quiz MP in Commons

FULHAM students quizzed their local MP Greg Hands during a visit to the House of Commons.

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury fielded tough questions from a group of A-level politics students from Lady Margaret School in Parsons Green, spanning a range of subjects including the crisis in Syria and new Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Sixth formers from the school, which recorded a 100 per cent A-level pass rate this year, also talked about their own aspirations and asked the Chelsea and Fulham MP for hints on how to make waves in the world of politics.

Mr Hands said: "It is always an honour to welcome one of the local schools from my constituency to visit the House of Commons.

"I am even happier to congratulate Lady Margaret School – a state academy – on its excellent examination results and the calibre of the girls who visited me at the House of Commons."

Shock over surge in hate crimes against Muslims in borough

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A LEADING refugee group has expressed "great concern" over a rise in Islamophobic attacks in Hammersmith and Fulham.

The group says that while Islamophobic attacks and abuse have risen by 70 per cent in the past year across London, the increase is worse still in Hammersmith and Fulham.

Latest Metropolitan Police crime statistics for the borough show that, in the year up to July, there was a 100 per cent increase in Islamophobic attacks, up from 14 to 28.

"These shocking figures reflect the consequences of so much anti-migrant, anti-foreigner rhetoric in certain national newspapers," said Phil Cooper, from Hammersmith and Fulham Refugee Forum.

He added: "While it is often said that such increases show better reporting and recording of crime, the statistics always under-represent actual incidents so these figures are a real concern.

"Hammersmith and Fulham is a diverse and largely tolerant borough but clearly more work needs to be done by us all."

Metropolitan Police statistics show that Islamophobic attacks in the capital almost doubled in the 12 months until June, from 478 to 816. Incidents ranged from online bullying to physical assaults and extreme violence, with women targeted the most.

The London borough of Westminster saw the greatest number of attacks, with 54 incidents reported, while the highest increase of 263 per cent was recorded in Merton.

Tell Mama, an organisation which monitors Islamophobic incidents, said that the majority of victims were women who wear head scarves and veils.

"We realised that at a street level Muslim women who were visible, and wore the Hijab or the headscarf, were suffering more targeted abuse," said Tell Mama director Fiyaz Mughal.

"We also realised that women who wear Niqab, the face veil, suffered more aggressive incidents – there was something about the face veil that in a way brought out the worst in the perpetrator."

Commander Mak Chishty, who runs the Met's hate crime unit, explained that there are a number of reasons why Muslim women are targeted more than men.

"Their physical attire obviously says they are Muslim, they are normally by themselves and with children and the cowardice shown by perpetrators is that it is easier to attack a woman with children than it is a man," he said.

The Met has attributed the rise in part to a willingness of victims to come forward, as well as an increased awareness by officers who are more able to identify such offences.

"No one should suffer in silence, so please report hate crime to us as soon as possible so we can act," said Commander Chishty.

■ **DISHING UP: Future stars of the culinary world will go head to head in the kitchen once again, in a bid to become Hammersmith and Fulham's Young Chef of the Year. Some of the borough's budding young cooks will face a grilling as a team of expert judges tuck in to taste their favourite dishes. Entries are now open for the annual competition, which is organised by Hammersmith and Fulham Council in conjunction with Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College. The grand final will be held at the college's training restaurant in Barons Court in February. Last year's winner, Taban Roosta, is pictured with judges Gerrard Maddan, Danny Bohan and Anna Lotito, as well as Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham, councillor Mercy Umeh.**

Helping families to delete digital fraud

BARCLAYS is to host a fraud awareness event at a Fulham primary school next week.

The workshop will take place at the Al-Muntada Primary School in Bridges Place on October 16, between 1.30pm and 5pm. The event is part of Barclays' 'Code Playground' project, which is designed to give children a basic grounding in computer coding.

Charlotte Snell is one of Barclays' 'digital eagles', working to help youngsters get to grips with all things digital.

She said: "It's really important that digital eagles offer support to families because we are going through a digital revolution."

Group will hear about latest diabetes research

THE next meeting of the Fulham Diabetes UK group will take place on Monday, October 12 at 6pm.

The group, which meets at the NHS Walk-in Centre in Parsons Green, will hear from Dr Andrew Frankel about new research into diabetes and the kidney.

According to the latest figures from Diabetes UK, more than 7,000 people in Hammersmith and Fulham are living with the condition. The World Health Organisation estimates that over 382 million people worldwide have diabetes.

For more information about the group, contact secretary Peter Gilbert on 020 7736 0044.

Laptops and lattes on the menu for remote workers

FULHAM coffee shops are leading a workplace revolution in London, with record numbers of people opting to work remotely, new research reveals.

Industry specialists say cafes are becoming the go-to place for out-of-office workers as thousands of Londoners set up their desks from a comfy coffee house seat.

The Barossa Café in New Kings Road, Fulham, was named in a list of the capital's favourite remote working hotspots compiled by conference call provider Powwownow.

It is thought that around nine per cent of employees in Fulham currently work remotely, but the company believes more than half of all Londoners will find themselves out of the office within the next 10 years.

Barossa staff say mothers with young children are often spotted hard at work in the café, while a range of business people can be found logging into their laptops during the week.

■ **HOTSPOT: Barossa cafe in Fulham is proving popular with remote workers.**

According to a recent survey, coffee shops come out on top in a poll of Londoners' favourite remote working locations.

Almost 40 per cent of respondents said they head to Starbucks to escape the office, with Costa, Café Nero and Pret a Manger close behind.

Libraries, museums, pubs and hotels are all included in the list of alternative workstations for Londoners on the go.

Chris Ward, author of *Out of Office: Work Where You Like and Achieve More*, said the advent of easy access Wi-Fi and Londoners' love of quality coffee was proving to be a winning combination.

He said: "The growth of the independent coffee shop scene has gone hand in hand with the growth of freely available Wi-Fi, as laptop users bring their more discerning palette with them in search of the finest coffee.

"Coffee shops make the ideal location for getting your work done more productively and creatively – you are away from the silence of your fellow co-workers and instead in the hubbub of your customers.

"We are all part of a tidal wave of people enjoying a new way of life."

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WAFFLE JACK'S

Fireworks to be a display of support for children in peril

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson is to team up the New Year's Eve fireworks with Unicef in a bid to make the whole capital make a New Year resolution to help the world's vulnerable children.

As tickets to the fireworks display have just gone on sale, Mr Johnson announced a new partnership with Unicef "that will bring a new dimension to the acclaimed event".

100,000 revellers are expected to gather in the viewing areas for the hugely popular pyrotechnic and lighting display, which is focused around the London Eye.

"Through the partnership with Unicef, ticketholders are being invited to come together for the first ever New Year's Big Resolution," said the mayor's spokesman.

"In addition to the music, countdown to midnight and the spectacular display itself, The Big Resolution will be a unifying moment aimed at raising awareness and bringing lasting change to the lives of vulnerable children around the world.

"During this season of goodwill and as people make resolutions and look ahead to a happy New Year, Unicef is hoping to raise vital funds to help children caught in wars and disasters around the world, like the one in Syria."

The mayor said: "Our stunning fireworks display is seen by millions of people across the globe, celebrating the successes of the last year and looking ahead with optimism and positivity to the new one.

"I am thrilled that we are linking up with a global organisation like Unicef to mark the start of 2016 by bringing people together for a shared moment of goodwill to raise awareness and benefit children around the world."

Unicef UK's Deputy Executive Director, Catherine Cottrell, said: "Unicef is delighted to join with the Mayor of London New Year's Eve fireworks. Together, we hope to unite people across the UK in The Big Resolution to help change the lives of vulnerable children around the world.

"We are living in unprecedented times. There are now more than 30 million children displaced from their homes, more than at any time since World War Two. Children need our help now more than ever. This promises to be a very special and memorable New Year's Eve celebration."

More details about plans for the London New Year's Eve fireworks, including Unicef's involvement will be announced soon.

Corporate sponsorship opportunities are available to businesses wanting to support the award-winning event, which is seen by 100,000 ticketed guests and attracted 16.1 million UK broadcast viewers, as well as an international audience in excess of one billion, in 2014.

"Corporate sponsorship offers businesses the ability to reach out to millions of people in the UK and abroad to promote this important campaign to help children around the world," said the mayor's spokesman.

People wanting to guarantee a view and entry for this year's celebrations can book up to four tickets by visiting *www.london.gov.uk/nye*. Each ticket is £10, with every penny being used to pay for the costs associated with the ticketing scheme.

Ticketing was brought in for the first time last year to help manage ever increasing crowds heading into central London for the display. The aim was to reduce numbers attempting to view the fireworks, but unable to do so, to help ensure its long term sustainability as a safe and enjoyable event.

As well as being enjoyed by revellers in the viewing areas, the internationally acclaimed display is watched by millions on television and helps promote London around the world.

Anyone without a ticket will not be able to get into this year's event, but they will still be able to take advantage of the hundreds of other celebrations taking place in pubs, bars, clubs and restaurants all over London, many close to home.

For updates and information about how to book tickets go to *www.london.gov.uk/nye*

■ **LIGHT RELIEF: Last New Year's Eve fireworks in London.**

Which salons are a cut above?

THE inaugural London Hair and Beauty Awards have been launched this week.

The Marriott Hotel in Mayfair will play host to the glitzy event, organised by Creative Oceanic, which endeavours to show appreciation for those in the hair and beauty industry who leave us looking and feeling fantastic.

Organisers said this week: "These awards provide a platform to thank those in the industry, letting them know that their good work doesn't go un-noticed."

The ceremony, which will take place on Sunday October 11, promises to be the biggest in the hair and beauty calendar, with 24 accolades, including best barbers, hair salon of the year, beauty salon of the year and many more.

"An industry that employs thousands across the country and with a vast amount of hair and beauty professionals in London, we want to recognise all those that make this great," said Irfan Younis of event organisers Creative Oceanic.

"We have had a fantastic response from the public, who voted in their thousands to ensure their favourite hair and beauty guru's made the shortlist. The response from London has been amazing considering it is the first year of the awards. We would like to wish all the finalists the best of luck and we look forward to delivering yet another great event."

For further information on the London Hair and Beauty Awards please visit *www.hairandbeauty.info*

Londoners encouraged to take TV licence test

FOLLOWING changes in licence fee arrangements the BBC has issued a quiz guide to help Londoners learn whether they need a TV licence – and avoid a £1,000 fine.

The Beeb says the quiz will test your knowledge of the myths and excuses surrounding the licence with a set of simple true or false questions.

"One thing is for sure – whether you flunk or pass with flying colours, you will have all the information you need to make sure that you are fully covered to watch the programmes you love," says the BBC.

Here is an example of one of the questions being posed: The TV licence is an optional fee for those who choose to watch BBC programmes so if you don't watch any live programmes on the BBC, you don't need a TV licence.

The answer is ***false***. If you're watching any programmes on any channel at the same time as they're being shown on TV, you need a TV licence

It's official! Broadcasting is a strictly great British skill

BY NICKY SWEETLAND
nicky@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE inaugural *Radio Times* festival landed on the glorious green at Hampton Court Palace last month for a three- day extravaganza packed with workshops, celebrity interviews and events, all to celebrate everything that's great about broadcasting in this country.

Fans of some of the most watched and listened-to programmes descended on the palace for a weekend of pure unadulterated pleasure and with Indian summer conditions, the feel of a countryside village fete was complete.

I had been invited to attend in a press capacity and therefore was able to dip in and out of a variety of different proceedings.

Some of the festivities were lost on me as my schedule dictates I'm often working when prime time shows are aired. That said, I do have my favourites and as a teenager I did take work experience at *Newsround*, so I jumped in with both feet and immersed myself in the world of television and radio for the full three days.

Day one began with a breakfast reception complete with bacon butties (I do love getting free food) in the VIP marquee. We were welcomed by *Radio Times* editor Ben Preston and Andrew Marr, who took time to answer questions and joked about tucking into his bacon. The broadcaster and journalist showed why he is still the premier political commentator. He was eloquent and engaging and I was sorry that due to a change in the schedule, I would not be able to attend his interview.

This clash did mean however, that I had a bit of time to wander around and take in all the festival had to offer. I soon found myself in the BBC tent, and was almost immediately grabbed by a helpful staffer who took my photo next to *Doctor Who!* Ok, it was actually in front of a green screen and the Doctor was just superimposed later, but I did look the part and I will eagerly await my call from the producers when they next need someone to fulfil the role. I also did a bit of football commentary, at which I wasn't very adept, but as a Yeovil Town fan I'm not used to describing goals.

The next call on my agenda was the real *Wolf Hall* tour, which saw a group of 30 or so of us hot-footing it across the road to the grounds of Hampton Court Palace. We were met by one of the curators, highly acclaimed Tudor historian Tracy Borman, who gave us a brief introduction before taking us on a magical journey around the older parts of the estate. We were even given a couple of special treats by firstly being huddled into a darkened store to see a hat rumoured to have been worn by Henry VIII and then to finish, we were taken onto the roof of the palace and allowed to wander between the chimneys as we drank in the sumptuous views from our vantage point.

Once back down with my feet on terra firma I again had a little break so decided to sit in the catering quarter and watch an interview with some of our rugby greats on the ITV stage. David Flatman, Ben Kay and Shane Williams filled an enlightening half hour by taking questions and giving their opinions on the current Rugby World Cup.

STRICTLY GOOD FUN: Our own Nicky Sweetland, right, with former Strictly Come Dancing professional Robin Windsor. Below: national treasure Sir Bruce Forsyth was interviewed by Susanna Reid during the festival.

Friday at the festival was really *Doctor Who* day, so after a morning of flitting around to other things, I thought it was about time I should dip into the world of the Daleks. With so many hardcore fans around, I did feel a little out of place without a sonic screwdriver but really enjoyed the interview with first Russell T Davies and then the authors of a book called *The Scientific Secrets of Doctor Who*. Now look, I don't pretend to be clever, but I did find some of the astrophysics explained by the pair to be enthralling.

It was then time to take to the main arena with the multitudes for the climax, which was to involve comedian Frank Skinner interviewing the Doctor himself, Peter Capoldi. I'm going to come clean here and tell you that when they announced there would be a delay in the interview starting, I decided I was just too cold and tired and so beat a retreat. I did hear from other journalists the next day however, that it was a great success.

Day two began for me with a talk by former Conservative MP Gyles Brandreth, whose stand-up routine about our use of the English language was both witty and fascinating, particularly for the more mature in attendance. My next foray was to see another entertainment stalwart John Challis, whose interview about his books, including one titled *Being Boysey*, was full of amusing anecdotes but again was very much aimed at the more silver haired show goer.

A more mixed event and hugely popular was the *EastEnders* at 30 interview introduced by Gaby Roslin and attended by Stars Danny Dyer and Natalie Cassidy alongside the executive producer Dominic Treadwell-Collins, who revealed Benedict Cumberbatch had promised to be in the show. It's a long time since I've seen *EastEnders* but I was taken by how passionate all four of the panellists were about the storylines and its importance in British culture.

Now, the *Great British Bake-Off* is something I watch as, contrary to popular belief, I am actually something of a domestic goddess. I have also got to admit to having a bit of a crush on Paul Hollywood so there was no way I was going to miss out on the chance to hear his glorious Liverpudlian inflections. In a love-like haze I listened intently as Mr Hollywood revealed much about his early career and that, hilariously, his pet name for Mary Berry is Bez. It was then my turn, and I asked the culinary maestro what he would bake to try to impress someone?

Through the deafening sound of my fluttering heart as the steely blue eyes caught my gaze, I think I heard Paul say he would make a good old fashioned bread and butter pudding, a dish he had recently prepared for Chris Evans at the Car Fest.

I then dipped into a very entertaining quiz run by the BFI before catching the second half of an interview with the cast and creatives of *Call the Midwife*, who revealed that series five would start to cover the devastating consequences of Thalidomide on babies in the 1960s.

I finished the chilly and now relatively quiet evening by listening to a fascinating interview with radio DJ and festival aficionado Edith Bowman, who revealed her passion for wellies and Kylie Minogue.

There are a few things that get my inner fangirl going to quite such an extent as BBC1's *Strictly Come Dancing* and day three of the festival was *Strictly* day, so I quite literally galloped to the event and arrived far too early. My first engagement was a masterclass with former *Strictly* star and world championship ballroom dancer Robin Windsor. After an initial warm-up I was paired with one of the festival's presenters, Jo Pickard, who after only about five minutes had to leave to introduce another event. This left me with no partner, so much to my absolute delight, the man himself, Robin Windsor, swept me off my feet and we danced the rest of the session together. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. I have to say I'm more Ann Widdecombe than Ola Jordan and poor Robin had his toes trodden on more than once, but for me the giggling when I went the wrong way and the general dragging around the dance floor only made it more fun.

There was then another schedule clash, which meant I had to miss half of Susanna Reid's interview with Sir Bruce Forsyth, but when I did get there, it was well worth it. The 87-year- old veteran showed his trademark quick wit and totally engaged the filled auditorium. Bouncing off Reid, Sir Bruce still has tremendous sparkle and regaled the crowds with tales of old.

The pair even finished with a tango.

I then watched an excellent *Strictly* panel interview hosted by *The One Show's* Alex Jones and featuring Russell Grant, Deborah Meaden and my friend Robin Windsor, before I joined throngs of chirping children for a Q and A with David Walliams. The comedian turned author read extracts from some of his top-selling books and revealed that he would be playing the dinner lady when one of them, *Billionaire Boy,* was adapted for TV.

After a thank-you to the organisers I bid a fond farewell, tired but filled with pride at howawesome the broadcasting industry in this country remains. With rumours of major cuts to the BBC, many of the performers commented on their hopes that the institution will remain.

Popular events like this can only help keep the discussion to the fore.

Mayor pledges to curb taxi growth

THE Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has renewed his call for further powers to cap the number of private hire vehicles in the capital.

This follows a recent analysis of congestion charging data that shows a huge increase in the number of licensed private hire vehicles observed within the zone during charging hours. In September 2012 an average of 448 licensed private hire vehicles were observed each day in the congestion charge zone. In August 2015 this figure had increased to 13,151 – which is a 29-fold increase.

Mr Johnson said: "Earlier this year I made clear my intention to seek powers to curb the rise of private hire vehicles that is causing congestion, particularly in central London, as well as illegal parking and pollution. Londoners have embraced new technology and rightly so, but we can't continue to have more than 13,000 private hire drivers in central London and growing given the congestion that results. That is why TfL is running a wider consultation to hear views on the regulations governing the trade and why I continue to push for legislation from Government to enable us to stamp out illegal practices and cap the number of private hire vehicles."

In May this year the Mayor made clear his intention to press for legislation from the government to enable Transport for London to cap the number of private hire vehicles drivers operating in the capital, which is rising by up to 2,000 each month.

Currently there are 88,149 minicab drivers in London and over the past year that number has risen by 16,312. At this rate, over the next two years, there will be an additional 40,000 minicab drivers – bringing the total number to more than 128,000. The growth of private hire vehicle drivers in the last 18 months is approximately 32 per cent.

The Mayor is of the firm view that London must be able to cap the number of minicab drivers.

Walk to school is not to be missed

PRIMARY school children in London who do not walk to school are missing out on a range of social, physical and practical benefits that their parents' and grandparents' generations took for granted, says Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking.

Released to celebrate the start of International Walk to School Month, a YouGov poll commissioned by the charity asked people what they enjoyed about walking to school.

It found that children in London aged eight to 11 who normally walk to school enjoyed meeting their friends on the way and spending time with family the most, with 59 per cent and 58 per cent respectively.

The worrying news is that with just 46 per cent of primary-aged children now walking to school (National Travel Survey 2014), lots of children are missing out on this valuable time with loved ones.

LWN

LETTERS

Perils of living in the rented sector

I AM responding to the articles on both September 17 and September 24, where the paper reported that refugees would be welcomed by faith leaders and our council.

I am far from being racist, as I have travelled extensively around the world, and mixed with a diverse plethora of cultures and races harmoniously, before I returned to England to settle down.

However, it has been stated that the Fulham and Hammersmith Council are directed by Government to sell up their properties in a bid to release capital, and invest in Right to Buy. If there are individuals who can afford to purchase their homes, I believe they ought to be moved out of council properties, purchase from the general housing market and not deprive needy tenants from the opportunity of residing in a flat or house to cater for their needs in a borough they have dedicated their lives too.

I have resided in Fulham for the past ten years quite contentedly until recently, where my landlord is now threatening me with eviction, due to him desiring to raze the complex to the ground and rebuild luxury flats, catering for the fortunate.

I moved to London once I graduated from university and took up employment in Harley Street. Then ill health took hold and I was forced to cease working in a job I had dedicated my life to. I am now registered disabled, where I dedicate much of my time to writing books, making hopeful pitches for television and offering psychological support and insight over the radio.

Currently, I have fallen on hard times, and being a single male I find myself at the end of the queue for the council housing register. Unfortunately, I fin myself even further back in the queue due to the poor refugees who are warmly welcomed to our borough. I am beginning to resent these less fortunate individuals coming to the UK and taking many of the residences which British Londoners could take. The Government and the various faith institutions ought to be working together, and investing their time, energy and money into stabilising countries such as Syria, Iraq and any other country experiencing strife in the Middle East. Britain could work with mainland Europe and work toward making the Middle East safe, prosperous and a place where its people can feel they could remain. After all, the UK is an island and the coastline does not expand just because some people in this country wish to invite even more foreigners to settle here.

By not accepting so many immigrants the UK could safeguard its own people and create residential premises for the people who already live here. As a trained psychologist, rescuing does not help others. Assisting and enabling can.

Giles Dee-Shapland
Michael Road, Chelsea

Climate change plain to observe

NOT surprisingly, Mayor Johnson's dossier exposing flaws in the case for Heathrow expansion ("Heathrow expansion plan fails on all levels", September 17) fails to expose the fact that our environment cannot afford any airport expansion, be it Heathrow, Gatwick or a new Boris Island.

Climate change is becoming plain for all to see as we suffer more rain interrupted by occasional Mediterranean temperatures. Our environment cannot cope with weekend shopping trips to Milan, monthly business trips to New York or holidays to exotic places two or three times a year. Air travel not only damages the local area, but disproportionately increases climate change because it pollutes the upper atmosphere.

Air travel already receives massive subsidies, including cities paying airlines to use their airports.

Instead of building more airport capacity, Lib Dems believe we should be adjusting taxes and regulations to show the true cost of air travel. We should use the aviation industry as a first step to changing our economic system so that we leave a world suitable for our children and grandchildren to live in.

■ When writing his most recent "Charlie Pipes Up" column (EU pen-pushers prove they know nothing about business in the real world, September 24), Charlie must have forgotten the news reports from several months ago about carers.

If they had four people to visit for one hour each but had to drive an hour between each visit, the carer was only paid for four hours' work, despite being on the job all day. So instead of being a threat, the European Court of Justice's ruling that workers be paid for their travelling time will have many honest businesses, not just unions, "rubbing their hands and crowing." This is because they now know that companies that used to treat their employees unjustly can no longer undercut them on price. It also ensures people are valued for the work they do.

Sounds like a just result to me!

Jon Burden
Hammersmith and Fulham Liberal Democrats

Labour's policies clearly outlined

THE Labour Group on Kensington and Chelsea council consists of the 12 Labour councillors elected across five wards at the borough elections in 2014 and, as of May this year, it has been led by me (Cllr. Robert Atkinson).

In this capacity I can assure you that "nationalising the monarchy" will not be one of our campaigning priorities in the near future.

If your readers wish to understand what your elected Labour council members are actually prioritising I suggest that they look carefully at the resolutions that we are putting forward for consideration at the next and subsequent council meetings (October 14 being the next council meeting).

The Labour Group's immediate local issues, as already tabled, are: opposing massive cuts in police numbers, determining what role the borough should play in the reception and accommodation of refugees and defending the rights of ordinary people to be represented by trades unions.

I think that these are quite enough to be going on with and the last time I looked the Royal Borough had no responsibility for nuclear submarines.

The Kensington constituency party can pursue its position on funding the monarchy as it wishes (and some would agree that the monarchy should be reduced and modernised) but the constituency party's campaign has not been endorsed by RBKC Labour Group and nor did it feature in any of the deliberations of the national Labour Party Conference last week.

Cllr J Robert Atkinson
Leader of the opposition
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council

■ CLIMATE THREAT: Lib Dems have concerns for air travel.

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

London Weekly News pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9ED
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	99 Wilton Road	Pimlico	SW1V 1DT
Co-op	104-105 Berwick Street	Soho	W1F 0QS
Tesco Metro	18-28 Warwick Way	Westminster	SW1V 1RX
Tesco Classic Metro	Dean Street	London	W1D 3RS
Tesco Classic Metro	10-16 Goodge Street	London	W1T 2QB
Tesco Metro	90-100 Edgware Road	Westminster	W2 2EA
Co-op	19-21 Store Street	Westminster	WC1E 7DB
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Co-op	210-212 Earls Court Road	Kensington	SW5 9QB
Sainsbury's Store	158a Cromwell Road	Kensington	SW7 4EJ
Tesco Metro	146-148 High Street	Kensington	W8 6SU
Sainsbury's Store	Ladbroke Grove	London	W10 5AA
Tesco Metro	224-226 Portobello Rd	Notting Hill	W11 1LJ
Tesco Metro	114-120 Notting Hill Gate	Notting Hill	W11 3QE
Tesco Super Store	West Cromwell Road	Kensington	W14 8PB
Kensington Central Library	Phillimore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL

Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	51 Townsmead Road	Fulham	SW6 2SY
Sainsbury's Store	Fulham Broadway Retail Centre	Fulham	SW6 1BW
Co-op	254 North End Road	London	SW6 1NJ
Co-op	314 Lillie Road	Fulham	SW6 7PS
Co-op	60 Parsons Green Lane	Fulham	SW6 4HU
Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX

Hammersmith Chronicle pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	2-3 Kings Mall	Kings Mall	W6 0PZ
Tesco Super Store	180 Shepherds Bush Road	London	W6 7NL
Marketing Dept Fulham & Hammersmith Council	King Street	London	W6 9JU
The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT

Shepherd's Bush Chronicle pick up points

WM Morrisons	114-116 Shepherds Bush Centre	Shepherds Bush	W12 8PP

Stage set for pioneering opera to go solo – and £5 million will help

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AFTER almost 20 years of support from Kensington and Chelsea Borough Council, Opera Holland Park is to stand on its own feet – with one last cheque of £5 million from the council.

Last Thursday the council waved a final goodbye to Opera Holland Park as it embarked on a new chapter as an independent charitable company.

"Since its launch in 1996 OHP has risen quickly to become a renowned institution with a strong reputation for making opera accessible to all," said a council spokeswoman.

"One of the council's conditions of independence is the continuation of OHP's popular accessibility schemes which provide thousands of cheap, and even free, seats for young people, the over sixties and others and also its outreach work to schools and people in residential care.

"Going forward OHP must now be self-sufficient and rely solely on sales and sponsorship.

"To help the new company strike out on its own they will receive a final grant of £5million from the council's reserves."

■ HOTSPOT: Barossa cafe in Fulham is proving popular with remote workers.

The newly independent company will have charitable status in its own right but will continue to benefit from the support of the Friends of Opera Holland Park, which has more than 2,500 members and contributes around £500,000 per annum to its festival as well as purchasing around £1million in tickets

Councillor Tim Coleridge, Cabinet Member for the Arts, said: "We are very proud that we created this outstanding cultural institution and wish them every success for the future. Ensuring that OHP continues to be accessible to all is at the heart of the new company's agreement with the council.

"Our final grant gives them a strong financial foundation in which to flourish and grow and I look forward to enjoying the company's performances for years to come."

At the helm of the newly formed company is Charles Mackay CBE whose past success includes raising the profile and financial health of Historic Royal Palaces – the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace now run without any public subsidy.

As chairman he has appointed a new board of trustees with a broad range of experience and expertise, including renowned ITV *News at Ten* anchor, Sir Trevor McDonald.

The other trustees are:

■ **Fiona Campbell**; a long serving OHP Friends Trustee and who will become OHP's Company Secretary, she is a solicitor with own general commercial practice in Notting Hill area.

■ **Anupam Ganguli**; Chairman of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, currently Finance Director of Royal Museums Greenwich, and previously of the Arts Council and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

■ **Jessica Hepburn**; shortly stepping down after nine years as Executive Director and Joint CEO of the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. Joined the Lyric in 2001 as Head of Development and then Director of Communications before becoming Executive Director and Joint CEO in 2006.

■ **Martin Kramer**; long-serving Trustee of OHP Friends, a retired solicitor specialising in media.

■ **Dr Martin Locket**; currently Dean of Academic Development at Ashridge Business School and Global Dean of Hult International Business School, after a career in digital, systems and technology development in both management and consultancy roles.

Countdown to sixth annual Nour Festival

THE sixth Nour Festival continues to illuminate contemporary arts and culture from the Middle East and North Africa in venues across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and runs from 20 October until 8 November.

Showcasing film, music, literature, poetry, performance and visual arts, Nour reaches a diverse audience of local, national and international visitors. Organisers say "it grows each year to take new audiences on an unforgettable journey into the region, its cultures and art forms.

"Sharing this year's journey are new partners that resonate with the festival's commitment to culture: The Pheasantry music venue and Saatchi Gallery on the King's Road, independent art galleries Muse and London Print Studio, and The Print Room theatre now in residence at its new home of the former Notting Hill Coronet cinema."

This commitment brings a number of artists to UK audiences for the first time including the Iraqi poet-journalist Omar al-Jaffal's projections of Baghdad through poetry and prose; Saudi photographer Adel Quraishi's commanding portraits of the last Guardians of the Prophet's Mosque at Medina, and soulful Franco-Moroccan singer Hindi Zahra. With over 50 events in 18 venues across 20 days, Nour 2015 presents a strong narrative from artists challenging preconceptions, sparking debate and providing insight into culture from across the MENA region.

Chef endorses foster initiative

LONDON-BORN celebrity chef Lorraine Pascale joined around 150 foster carers and fostered children to celebrate educational achievement at the Science Museum on September 23.

The event, hosted by Achievement for All and The Fostering Network, was held as part of London Fostering Achievement – a unique programme of work designed to raise the educational aspirations and achievements of children living with foster families across the capital.

Research shows children in care have poorer educational outcomes than their peers. Only 16.8 per cent of children in care in London achieve five A*-C including English and Maths at Key Stage 2, compared to 63 per cent of the total London population.

High proportions have special educational needs; 67.8 per cent nationally. The gap between the attainment of children in care and their peers remains a high priority for the government.

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London's drivers flout safety laws

LONDON'S roads are crammed with almost one million drivers who are putting lives seriously at risk through dangerous driving habits, a new survey has shockingly revealed.

More than 960,000 of the capital's 2.6 million car owners are tempting accidents by eating or drinking at the wheel – slowing up their reaction time by 44 per cent.

Experts say motorists who eat or drink while driving are more than three times as dangerous as those who have had a drink.

A poll of dangerous driving habits in the capital has exposed alarming results.

The poll has revealed:

■ 962,000 Londoners admit they eat and drink while driving.

■ 780,000 admit to speeding.

■ 624,000 confess to driving when they are tired.

Just as worrying are the findings which reveal that there are 312,000 drivers on the roads of the capital who admit to texting as they drive – and more than 180,000 confess they take their eyes off the road by doing their hair or shaving while in the car.

Besides risking the lives of others by their distractions, hundreds of thousands of Londoners who drive in the city are risking death or serious injury to themselves as around 250,000 say that they regularly do not wear a seatbelt.

The survey by Car Loan Warehouse shows that many of London's motorists throw out the safety rulebook in order to multi-task while driving the streets.

Safety campaigners are alarmed by drivers' reckless attitude to concentration.

A road safety study by researchers at the University of Leeds has revealed that the reaction times of motorists who eat or drink while driving were up to 44 per cent slower than usual.

The research found that even when sipping a drink, responses were up to 22 per cent slower and drivers were 18 per cent more likely to experience poor lane control.

Studies by the Transport Research Laboratory found that motorists who used their phones to send text messages were 37.4 per cent slower to react – while drivers who had consumed alcohol to the legal limit slowed their reaction times by 12.5 per cent.

A hands-free mobile phone conversation slowed reaction times by 26.5 per cent.

UNDER THE WESTWAY

Inspiring involvement at Inclusive Sports Festival

Angela McConville, Chief Executive of Westway Trust, showcases the Trust's inclusive sporting offer and explains plans for encouraging more disabled people into sport and fitness

LAST week we announced the Inclusive Sports Festival will take place at the end of the month. The festival will be offering a whole host of free sporting opportunities to disabled people at the Westway Sports and Fitness Centre.

The festival is set to showcase some of the diverse sport on offer and provide disabled people with the opportunity to take up a new sport or hobby, improve their health and wellbeing and meet new people.

Participants will be able to get involved in a range of activities. Defy gravity at the climbing wall, try their hand at wheelchair and inclusive tennis sessions, have a go at bowls-based boccia and get active in a gym session, as well as show off their moves in the adaptive dance course.

The festival typifies the Trust's attitude towards improving the health and fitness of local people and providing opportunities for all.

We run a well-established and well-known inclusive sport offer. We have received the Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) accredited kite mark, which recognises the achievements and commitment of leisure facilities that enable disabled people to become physically active. The mark not only assesses the accessibility of facilities, as you would expect, but also the know-how of staff to coach and train people with different abilities, as well as marketing and communications strategies to encourage and motivate disabled people to take part.

Part of the reason we have received the kite mark is because of the appeal of our broader commitment to inclusivity. Earlier this year, we hosted the London Youth Games Learning Disability Tennis Finals. The competition focuses on those individuals who have mild learning disabilities and was an overwhelming success.

■ EXERCISE FOR ALL: Westway Sports and Fitness Centre.

Our inclusive sport offer is so well renowned that last week the English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS), the organisation set up to promote more opportunities for disabled people in sport, filmed a regular facility user, Chandni Sony, at the sports centre. The filming will be part of the 'Being Active' guide that has been successful in communicating how disabled people could benefit from taking part in sport and physical activity. Run in collaboration with EFDS and Disability Rights UK, the video gives advice on the best way to go about starting to participate.

Chandni, from the local area, has a visual impairment, and was involved in the campaign to highlight her personal journey into exercise. Originally from India, Chandni felt she had little opportunity to participate in sport. When she arrived in the UK at the age of 13 she focused on her studies, but as an adult wanted to get fitter.

The challenge for Chandni was finding a facility and trainers that suited her needs – specifically, help with the buttons on the gym machines. It seems simple, but many places do not offer that support or have any understanding of the issues faced by people with visual impairments.

She has recently taken up regular exercise at Westway Sports and Fitness because it is an IFI accredited gym and has found her experience with us a revelation.

Speaking to colleagues Chandni expressed her support for our work: "Westway has accessible changing rooms, accessible machines and that every time I need to use the facilities I can be provided with an instructor for an hour, who will help me move from one machine to another. And of course, while I'm exercising they push me harder!"

Her story is heart-warming and inspirational. She is not alone. We work with a range of disabled people with both physical and mental impairments day-in, day-out. Last year our inclusive sport offer reached 82. Inclusive sport is not an optional extra for us at Westway Trust; it is part of our DNA.

I strongly encourage anyone who wants take part in, or find out more about, our inclusive sport offer to join us on Friday October 30 from 10am to 2pm at the Westway Sports and Fitness Centre. Full details are on our website *www.westway.org*

Our expert team will be on hand to provide more information and introduce you to everything on offer.

Candidates say housing is vital

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS voting for a new Mayor next year now face a win-win result – as both of the frontrunners in the contest to replace Boris Johnson are making the capital's housing crisis their top priority.

Both the Tory candidate, Richmond MP Zac Goldsmith, and his main rival, Labour MP for Tooting Sadiq Khan, have pledged to make solving the housing shortage their biggest concern if elected to the top office at City Hall in May.

But both candidates could not have different backgrounds. Mr Goldsmith, who last week won a landslide victory to be named as the official Conservative candidate, is the son of a billionaire.

By complete contrast, Mr Khan is the son of a bus driver.

The MP for Richmond Park and North Kingston, a strong environmentalist, Eurosceptic and opponent of Heathrow expansion, won a ballot with 70.6 per cent of the vote, beating rivals MEP Syed Kamall, an academic and the leader of the Conservative and Reformists group in the European parliament, Stephen Greenhalgh, former leader of Hammersmith council, and Andrew Boff, the leader of the Conservative group on the Greater London authority.

■ PLEDGE: Zac Goldsmith.

Goldsmith received 6,514 votes, Kamall 1,477 (16 per cent of the total), Greenhalgh 864 (9.4 per cent) and Boff 372 (4 per cent).

Frank Zacharias Robin Goldsmith was born in London in 1975 and went to Eton College. When his father Sir James Goldsmith died in 1997, he received a reported £200 million from Sir James's £1.2 billion estate.

Sadiq Aman Khan was born in London in 1970 and grew up in a council flat in Earlsfield.

Despite their vast differences in background, both of the joint-favourites to become the next Mayor of London are united in believing that solving the housing shortage is the biggest issue for the next man in charge of the capital.

"There is one thing above all others that I'm determined to do for our city, and that is to make it more affordable to buy or rent a home of your own," said Khan at the Labour Party Conference last week.

"That's why I'm going to make the election in May a referendum on London's housing crisis."

And Mr Goldsmith agrees. After winning the candidacy last week he said: "The biggest challenge of all is the housing crisis."

He added: "Londoners are being priced out of their city and we will need a step change in the number of homes built, and the manner in which they are built."

Vitality WestRun London

Are you ready to mix things up and take on the green traffic-free streets of West London? Vitality WestRun London is the freshest new 10k run to hit the capital's streets, taking place on Sunday 15th November at 9am.

Designed as a community festival for runners of all ages and abilities, the 10k offers the perfect opportunity to run with friends, family, neighbours and fellow West Londoners and celebrate your community together!

The fast, flat 10k route takes in the most picturesque streets in West London, including New Kings Road, Fulham Road and Parsons Green. Starting next to Eel Brook Common, the common itself with play host to a buzzing Race Village, with plenty to keep everyone occupied throughout the morning - runners, spectators, family members, everyone's invited!

The event will also play host to a one mile Family Fun Run, so Mums and Dads, Aunts and Uncles, Grandma and Grandpa, you can all run with your little superstars! The Fun Run kicks off as soon as the 10k runners have run through the start line. You'll be rewarded with an amazing, high quality WestRun Family Fun Run Medal, a souvenir t-shirt and of course treasured memories of running to the loud cheers of the adoring West London crowds.

The Family Fun Run is open to anyone over the age of four, and is simply the best way to celebrate some family time by running one mile on the closed road streets of beautiful West London!

With more and more people taking up running, currently 2.1million per week, the appetite for an all-inclusive, fun event that celebrates success at all ages is just what the West London community ordered!

Jamie Warren, from the race organiser Achieve Events, said: "WestRun London offers local families and the community the perfect way to kick off their Sunday, in one of London's most attractive boroughs. With completely closed roads, this major new race promises its runners a fantastic flat route, cheering crowds on some of London's most iconic streets and the perfect race village situated on Eel Brook Common.

"Whether you've already got the running bug, or are a first timer looking to take on a fun new challenge with family and friends, this is a celebration for everyone that you won't want to miss!"

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This monthly column is produced by Peter Faulkner of Who Can You Trust organisation and sponsored by **Checkatrade.com.** Peter can be contacted on 07958-475392 or email peterfau67@gmail.com

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If it's fake, don't buy it

This month we devote the majority of our Who Can You Trust column to the counterfeit industry because it affects every single person in every borough and you might be shocked to discover that your medicines and your car tyres could even be fake putting your life and others around you at risk.

Fake phones

By Peter Faulkner

THE fake industry is worth billions whether you look at it from the eyes of a criminal or the eyes of a reputable business.

It lines the pockets of criminal gangs and unscrupulous traders and it also costs industry billions in lost revenue and jobs.

Worse still - counterfeit products cost lives across the globe.

Latest figures suggest the market for counterfeit goods in the UK is worth £1.3billion of which £900million funds organised crime, but the cost to the UK economy could be as high as £30 billion with the loss of more than 14,000jobs.

At Westminster's Radisson Blu Portman Hotel on October 21 the powerful Anti-Counterfeiting Group,which represents virtually every major manufacturer in the world, holds its autumn conference.

Guest speaker will be Baroness Neville-Rolfe, the Minister for Intellectual Property, who will outline how the landscape of IP in London and the rest of the country has changed and how it will continue to change under her direction.

ACG will hold a special Brand Protection Masterclass session in the afternoon incorporating all the very latest ideas in brand protection and intellectual property.

It doesn't matter where you live whether it be Westminster, Chelsea or Hammersmith in the heart of the capital or whether you live in Tower Hamlets, Hackney or Docklands – fakes are being sold right under your nose.

It might be your local market or boot sale, it might be in your local shop or it might be in your local pub. Someone, somewhere near you will be trying to make a quick pound with no thought at all for the potential consequences of selling fake, dangerous goods.

ACG represents the voice of business in shaping an effective deterrent to counterfeiting in the UK. They have been working since 1980 to raise awareness of this serious organised crime and are regarded as the leading wauthority on the worldwide trade in fakes..

They now represent 160 international organisations and are battling to stem the alarming rise in counterfeiting activities on the internet in recent years.

It is now a global epidemic, posing major threats to consumers and national economies, and funding other crimes such as drugs, guns and people smuggling. Interpol has also reported evidence of links to terrorist organisations, in the Middle East and elsewhere.

ACG represents the interests of UK and international companies, manufacturing practically everything from toothpaste to mobile phones, chocolate to car parts, clothes to car parts, perfumes to pills.

As you sleep or work they are looking after your interests to make sure you don't get ripped off by unscrupulous gangsters or even neighbours trying to make a fast buck.

Here's just a sample of the type of things that are being counterfeited right across the country:

Pills and tablets

Herbal pills containing bitter orange extracts and Indian lotus and the banned ingredient sibutramine were being sold online from a cottage in Sussex. This banned substance was used in the prescription drug Reductil, but was withdrawn from sale in 2010 over claims that it raised the risk of heart attack and stroke.

It was linked to 17 British deaths in the decade before it was outlawed.Lida Daidaihua, which is illegally imported from unregulated laboratories in China, contains three times as much sibutramine as Reductil.

Fake Viagra and other pills for erectile dysfunction are being openly sold on the net along with other medicines claiming to cure cancer, hair loss, fertility, and breast cancer.

Other tablets are being offered for weight loss, eczema and diabetes while further dangers exist counterfeit condoms and dental equipment.

Fake Tiffany bracelet

Motoring

A couple of years ago there was an influx of Volkswagen, Audi, Skoda and Seat brake pads into Northern Ireland. They were fakes, held together only by glue.

According to the TSI, police in Dubai recently arrested a gang planning to flood the market with 45,000 oil and fuel filters counterfeited to look like genuine General Motors, Honda, Mazda and Toyota products. An oil filter might sound fairly innocuous, but if one disintegrates it can cause engine failure.

2 Comments

Fake child seats, which look and feel like genuine products, have been sold to unsuspecting parents. Theseats have not been safety tested and could put a child's life at risk in the event of a collision.

Other fakes

Everything from fake Cartier, Omega and other high class watches, Tiffany handbags and jewellery handbags and designer clothing are being sold on the web because the criminals know Joe Public is looking for a bargain.

They do not care about consequences though and cheap, shoddily made goods - especially electrical goods from China and Taiwan - may cost you or a family member their life.

Always remember, it seems too good to be true then it probably is a fake. If you value your life don't buy counterfeit goods.

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Alarming news about rogue salesmen

A WARNING this week to residents in every London borough that rogue traders coud be targeting their homes trying to sell cheap home burglar alarms and security.

Trading Standards officers across the country are being sent the warnings after a string of residents lost £92,296 over the last 12 months. Councils and trading standards officers are working with legitimate home security industry suppliers to reduce problems.

Over the last few years, a number of rogue traders, supplying burglar alarms and other home security devices, have been prosecuted and in some cases imprisoned.

One trading standards manager said: "These rogue traders will usually cold call their victims by telephone and claim to be part of an official crime reduction campaign or similar.

"They will then offer 'free' or greatly discounted alarms and ask for a home visit.

"During the visit high-pressure sales tactics are used, including stating that this special offer will be lost if consumers don`t sign there.

"They also seek to evade the 14 day cancellation right afforded consumers when entering into contracts in their own home.

"What many consumers then find is that there are hidden costs for monitoring and maintenance which mean the installed alarm ends up costing thousands of pounds, and could have been purchased far cheaper elsewhere."

People can find out details on traders by visiting **www.traderregister.org.uk**

Ryanair tricked by Chinese fraudsters

BUDGET airline Ryanair had its wings clipped by clever fraudsters after it fell victim to a $5m hacking scam.

Crooks siphoned off money from an account earmarked for the payment of fuel bills via an electronic transfer to a bank in China.

The transfer was subsequently blocked and the funds – earmarked to pay for aviation fuel for Ryanair's 400-plus Boeing 737-800 aircraft – were expected to be transferred back into the company's account.

The airline has been working with its banks and the relevant authorities and said that the funds – less than $5 million – had now been frozen.

The airline has since has taken steps to ensure that this type of transfer cannot happen again.

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

London WEEKLY News

ISSUE 45 | PICK UP A FREE COPY | Thursday, October 8th 2015

Harry rallies support in capital as walking wounded trek 1,000 miles

Here come our heroes

FLYING THE FLAG: The Walking with the Wounded team who are raising money for Prince Harry's Endeavour Fund charity.

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AN appeal has gone out to Londoners, visitors and Americans living in London to help Prince Harry help the bravest of the brave and to join him in giving them a heroes' welcome at Buckingham Palace next month.

On the morning of Sunday, November 1, six badly-wounded UK and US warriors will complete the demanding feat of a 1,000-mile walk the length of Britain, when they take the last steps of their remarkable trek down Pall Mall to the Palace.

There to meet them, either at the gates or walking the last mile to the Palace along with them, will be Prince Harry, whose Endeavour Fund charity for wounded servicemen and women is being boosted by the heroes of The Walk Of Britain.

The four British and two US wounded veterans of the Walking With The Wounded team started in Scotland on August 22. They have climbed hills, downed dales and crossed mountainsides as they walked on, relentlessly determined despite their dreadful injuries.

But there has been a glitch. When The Walk Of Britain began, organisers launched a fund-raiser for the public to Buy A Mile, sponsoring the team, and it was hoped that by the time they reached the Palace all 1,000 miles would have been sponsored.

However, although at the time of writing the team have covered 526 miles, only 236 miles have been sponsored.

Although £5,342 has been raised by the team, organisers and patron Prince Harry are now hoping that

TURN TO PAGE 2

STEPPING OUT: Prince Harry joins the hardy participants on The Walk of Britain as they make their way on a trek that will take them the length of Britain to raise charity funds.

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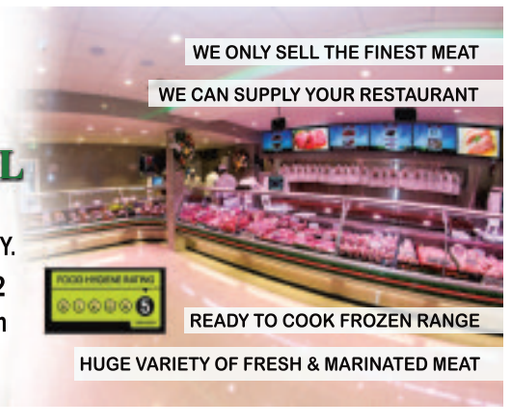

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ROYAL LONDON

Prince Harry salutes the walking wounded

■ FROM PAGE ONE

London – and Americans living in London – will rally to the cause, and that 1,000 donations to make the target of raising £20,000 will be reached before the walkers reach the Palace.

To be one of the 764 donors now urgently needed, go to *uk.virginmoneygiving.com* and find the Walk Of Britain-Buy A Mile page. Alternatively, go to the Walking With The Wounded website *www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk*

"Walking over 1,000 miles is no mean feat," says Edward Parker, founder of Walking With The Wounded, the charity that helps veterans with physical, mental or social injuries to develop new careers outside the military, re-integrate into society and provide long-term security for themselves and their families.

"But we will be able to demonstrate that despite injuries these men and women look to their future with great determination and courage."

Prince Harry is leading the respect and admiration for the brave six who have been cheered and welcomed on every step of their trek.

"Walking With The Wounded champions our extraordinary wounded service personnel and highlights their determination and courage to face future challenges following injury on the battlefield," said the Prince.

"It is an honour to announce that the Walking With The Wounded team are coming home to walk among the community which has supported our armed forces so enthusiastically.

"I am delighted to say that I will be joining the team for a small part of their journey and I am hugely looking forward to it."

■ ROYAL SALUTE: Prince Harry meets team members from the Walking with the Wounded charity fundraising expedition.

The six veterans now determinedly making their way to the Palace each suffered appalling injuries while serving their nations. They are:

■ **Alec Robotham of the Royal Marines**. Aged 29. Alec was badly injured four months into his tour of Helmand by a suicide bomber whilst on a routine foot patrol. Luckily for Alec, the bomber detonated himself a few metres behind him and most of the blast fragments and ball bearings went straight into the large equipment he was carrying on his back. The remaining blast impact was absorbed mainly by his legs, leaving him with multiple puncture wounds to both legs, a severed main artery in his right leg, puncture wounds to his left foot and right arm, a broken collar bone and hearing damage.

■ **Matt Fisher of 3 Rifles Regiment.** Aged 30. Whilst on a routine foot patrol in Sangin, Matt sustained a gunshot wound to the foot on Boxing Day 2009, and was casevac'd back to Bastion and then on to hospital in the UK. Matt spent time working at the Cadet Training Centre in Frimley Park in between rehab sessions at Headley Court, and after a year of walking badly made the decision to have his foot amputated.

■ **Scott Ransley of the Royal Marines.** Aged 26. On Operation Herrick 14 in Afghanistan Scott was involved in an incident whilst dismantling an IED making facility. Scott was close to an IED which was detonated by a close friend of his who sadly died in the incident. The explosion resulted in Scott losing the sight of his right eye.

■ **Kirstie Ennis of the US Marine Corps.** On her last deployment to Afghanistan, her helicopter went down on June 23, 2012 while performing combat resupplies duties. Due to the crash, Sgt. Ennis sustained injuries that include: full thickness facial trauma, oral and maxillofacial reconstruction, damage to her cervical and lumbar spine, hearing impairment, bilateral shoulder trauma, traumatic brain injury, and left foot limb salvage.

■ **Stewart Hill of the Royal Welsh regiment.** Aged 44. Stewart suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury on July 4, 2009 whilst commanding B Company, 2 MERCIAN in Afghanistan. The injury has resulted in brain impairments within executive function brain area, chronic fatigue, memory problems, severe and persistent tinnitus and bilateral hearing loss.

■ **Andrew Bement of the US Marine Corps.** Lt Bement was deployed to Afghanistan as an Infantry Platoon Commander but was medically retired in March of 2015 for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and a Traumatic Brain Injury.

Organisers hope that The Walk Of Britain will raise awareness of the need to provide re-employment of the many injured servicemen and women. In a message to potential employers, a Walking With The Wounded spokesman said: "Soldiers have spent years developing additional experience as teachers, trainers, engineers, nurses, mechanics, construction workers and truck drivers. They've taught Afghan farmers to improve efficiency and modernize their crop growing. They drive more miles in a single day than any parcel carrier. In short, the experiences of today's soldiers are as challenging and diverse as in any work force.

"Many employees see teamwork, creative problem solving, multitasking, enthusiasm and initiative as key to success, the British Soldier has these in abundance. With the support of businesses across the UK, we can help match this willingness to succeed with the needs of all types of employers. That is a force to be reckoned with.

"These people are fighters; highly skilled with a work ethic honed through years of training during their time in the military. It's a powerful mix and is why our wounded make for such excellent employees. Our programmes ensure that wounded veterans benefit from the right qualifications and training: those that will ensure they become a sought-after asset within any business.

"Walking With The Wounded wants to hear from any employer which thinks this sounds like a good idea. We promise you won't regret it."

For more details on Walking With The Wounded, go to *www.walkingwiththewounded.org.uk*

Those wanting to join Prince Harry in welcoming home the Walk Of Britain team should meet outside Buckingham Palace on the morning of Sunday November 1.

WHERE TO SEE A ROYAL THIS WEEK

Earl recognises young people's gold standard

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website *www.royal.gov.uk* but here's the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

October 6th

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will hold a Diamond Supporters Reception and Diamond Leaders Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee, will hold two Receptions for young people who have reached the Gold Standard of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at St. James's Palace.

October 7th

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Patron, the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, will attend a performance of The Merchant of Venice at the Ambassador's Theatre, West Street WC2.

■ The Princess Royal, as Renter Warden, The Fishmongers' Company, will attend the Court Autumn Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge.

■ The Duchess of Gloucester, as President, Royal Academy of Music, will present the Royal Academy of Music Kohn Foundation Bach Prize to Ms Rachel Podger at the Academy, Marylebone Road.

■ The Duke Of Kent, as President, will attend the presentation on the Royal Air Force's Armed Drone Programme at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, Whitehall SW1.

October 8th

■ The Princess Royal, as Renter Warden, The Fishmongers' Company, will attend a Committee of Wardens Meeting, a General Court Meeting at the Fishmongers' Hall, London Bridge EC4.

■ The Duke of Kent, as Patron, will host a lunch at Buckingham Palace for St. Mungo's Broadway.

October 11th

■ Princess Alexandra, as Deputy President, British Red Cross,will attend Dance Power 2015 at the Theatre Royal, Catherine Street WC2.

October 12th

■ The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will give a reception at Buckingham Palace to mark the 2015 Rugby World Cup.

■ The Earl of Wessex will visit Westbrook Primary School, Westbrook Road, Heston, Hounslow.

■ The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, will attend a Global Mining Companies' lunch at Halcyon Gallery, New Bond Street.

October 13th

■ The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend receptions at Buckingham Palace for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Award.

■ The Princess Royal will present the 2015 Chatham House Prize at Plaisterers' Hall, One London Wall EC2.

■ The Duke of Gloucester, as Liveryman, the Worshipful Company of Masons, will present The Duke of Gloucester's Award for Excellence in Stonemasonry in St. Stephen's Church, 39 Walbrook EC4.

A salutary vision of life without the royals

ROYAL LONDON

Oh God, save the Queen!

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Dateline: London May 20th 2020

TODAY'S State Opening of Parliament has been thrown into confusion following reports that The Queen has gone to Balmoral, leaving a note saying not to expect her back.

Charles Windsor, as the former Prince of Wales, recently told Newsnight that he "may as damn well get used to calling myself now", has refused to deputise for the ex-monarch as he is busy moving home.

Mr Windsor is overseeing removals teams at Kensington Palace where workers are humping furniture and ornaments into a convoy of trucks – once an official from the new Department of Citizenship and Democracy [DoCD] has checked that each box contains Mr Windsor's actual possessions and not any gift given to him during a royal tour or State occasion.

There was an argument earlier today between Mr Windsor and a DoCD official over the ownership of a bushman's hat which he had brought back from a visit to Australia in the 1990s. Waiting photographers are said to be delighted with the picture that they snapped of Mr Windsor punching a hole in the hat before angrily exclaiming: "Keep the blasted thing! We don't wear them in Waitrose at Poundbury anyway!"

However, the photographers are anxious as there has been no sign as yet of William and Kate and their three children whose glum departure from the palace is the sight that cameramen and dozens of TV crews are waiting for – despite growing rumours that the family left last night as Mrs Middleton-Windsor is keen to to start work in New York in her new appointment as group style director for Conde Nast magazines.

Meanwhile, at The Tower Of London, where the formerly-called eaters of the b-word are been given "nutrition counselling", other DoCD officials in the uniform of the flat caps and brown overalls of their department have spent the morning identifying which of the Crown Jewels are to be retained for the coming NHS fund-raiser at Sotheby's and which must be returned to their countries of origin, principally South Africa and India, with a letter of apology for their "misappropriation during a megalomaniac moment" signed by First Citizen Corbyn.

Although riot police have ringed the former royal palaces there have been few arrests among the huge crowds which have maintained a flowers and candlelight vigil for six days now, ever since FC Corbyn's spokescitizen announced that "the persons previously known as the Royal Family" were to be evicted, in the wake of the landslide Labour victory at the recent general election, which reduced the number of Conservative MPs to 35 and the Lib-Dems to none.

■ AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT: Writer Geoff Baker imagines a republican Britain.

Emma Dent Coad, the newly-elected MP for Kensington whose local Labour group first proposed the motion that Labour should embrace Republicanism, back at the Party's conference of September 2015, has denied reports that Buckingham Palace is to be used to provide temporary accommodation for the thousands of now-homeless financiers made redundant from the City since May 8, when shares on the London Stock Exchange lost 98 per cent of their value on the first day of trading following Labour's sensational victory.

Citizen Member Dent Coad, the new Citizen of State for Equivalence and Fair Do's, also dodged questions on claims that the palace gardens are to be ploughed up to provide "retirement and last grazing grounds" for the herds of cattle now overfilling fields all over the nation as farmers wait for Environment Minister Kerry McCarthy to soon implement Labour's manifesto pledge to make the eating of meat a criminal offence.

"I cannot comment on plans for the Buckingham People's Place as these will be revealed later today in the Former Citizen Queen's Speech," said Citizen Member Dent Coad.

"However, I can categorically deny alarmist misinformation that the Government is seeking the immediate rebranding of Earl Grey tea and Prince's sandwich pastes.

"On the matter of replacing road signs in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Park Royal, Earls Court and Duke Street W1, and the proposal for the renaming of Ston-On-Thames, this is currently under investigation by my colleagues at the Department of Collectivism & Inclusivity.

"In the meantime I would like to commend the decision of Holland & Barrett to withdraw their stocks of royal jelly capsules and applaud the example set by the Kennel Club in banning the King Charles Spaniel category from Crufts."

Earlier today First Citizen Corbyn, who is expected to travel to Parliament later by rickshaw, told the new presenter of Radio 4's *Today* Programme, Kim Kardashian, that the Government's controversial proposal to rename the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy was "fully in keeping with the electorate's new wish to embrace Republicanism."

The BBC, which is hotly-denying claims that the surprise appointment of Ms Kardashian and her new co-presenter Mr Blobby was in response to the nationwide sweep of populism, is also reporting that the Treasury has denied that banknotes and coins bearing The Queen's head will shortly cease to be legal tender.

A Treasury spokescitizen told the BBC: "Although the Government is shortly to embark on the biggest print run of new bank notes since the Weimar Republic, essentially in order to support the pound which disappointingly stands against the dollar as worth fourteen cents, all notes and coins currently in circulation will remain legal tender.

■ ALL CHANGE: Jeremy Corbyn.

"However, all branches of the Post Office will shortly be distributing free gaffer tape to stick over the former monarch's image in order that citizens do not cause offence when purchasing goods and services."

First Citizen Corbyn is expected to move later today to calm fears than the 1,200 staff currently employed by the Household previously known as Royal face redundancy.

"Staff of the Household previously known as Royal, along with all members of the seven regiments who make up the Household Division, are to be reassigned to new duties," said the First Citizen's spokescitizen.

"Although these duties have not yet been fully determined, they are expected to include the removal of all plaques and insignia denoting the 883 warrants previously known as royal, the seizure of all toys depicting Tower of London eaters of the b-word and the destruction of all songsheets and recordings in other mediums of the anthem formerly known as national.

"To replace the anthem previously known as national, the Government has commissioned Citizen Billy Bragg to compose a new Citizen's Shanty, to lyrics which were chosen democratically at random by the Guinevere national lottery machine. The winning lyrics were sent in by a Mrs Trellis of North Wales."

Following the unexpected departure of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh for Balmoral, said by insiders to have followed a less-than-popular request from Downing Street that Her Majesty wore "a brown trouser suit" for today's State Opening of Parliament, the First Citizen's spokescitizen indicated that First Citizen Corbyn may deliver the speech himself.

"Jez-cit has got a perfectly-adequate old exercise book from which he can read the speech previously known as the Queen's," said the spokescitizen.

"Or he may ask all the new Labour MPs to deliver it, each of them democratically reading a paragraph, with simultaneous translations provided by the Members for Cardiff and Swansea. But he hasn't decided yet as he is still making his sandwiches for the reception afterwards in the canteen and drop-in centre previously occupied by the House of Lords."

The spokescitizen added: "We are sorry that the citizen formerly known as Her Majesty may have been offended by our suggestions of newly-appropriate clothing and it was not Jez-cit's intention to upset Citizen Mountbatten-Windsor by asking if he would like to join him in wearing sandals for the State Opening.

"Reports that it was suggested that Citizen Mountbatten-Windsor may also have liked to consider wearing hiking shorts, possibly in order to promote the Government's new anti-pollution programme, Save A Sparrow Walk To Work, are media speculation."

The First Citizen's spokescitizen also rebuffed claims that the First Citizen had reneged on assurances given in 2015, around the time of his first Party Conference as Leader, when he denied that a Labour Government would "fight" for the abolition of the system previously known as monarchy.

"The First Citizen actually stated at that time that a radical reappraisal of the concept of hierarchal sovereignty was not a priority for him," said the spokescitizen.

"He did not say at any time that it was not an option."

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SHOWBIZ SPECIAL

Whatever next for Sunday night television?

Downton's saga of lost empire conquers world all over again

by Geoff Baker

HOW will it end? Will Lady Mary find happiness at last, but what's all this about a "cruel turn" in her relationship? Is Barrow to die? Will there be a huge fire? Why is Hugh Bonneville saying we'll be needing hankies at the end? And what will it all mean for the sales of sherry?

It's not just the whole of Britain – including, apparently, The Queen – who are hooked on wondering about the final outcome of *Downton Abbey*. As the most successfully-gripping British TV sensation in decades finally winds down, the producers are delighted by the news that now the whole world is watching.

"Five years in we remain one of the most written about, most talked about and one of the highest-rated dramas in both America and Britain, which is fantastic. We've continued to sell the show around the rest of the world and it recently debuted in Japan, which was the final major territory left," says Downton's executive producer Gareth Neame.

"We're now in 250 territories worldwide, which is essentially everywhere on the planet that it is possible to sell television content to. I suspect this global success is unprecedented for a British-scripted show and in fact we are probably bigger globally than many of the big US domestic hits that we all so admire."

Downton, says Neame, has quite simply "changed the landscape" and has woken the world to the fact that the British are still doing it best.

"I don't think it is overstating it to say that Downton has taken a much-loved British genre – the period country house drama, that has so many iterations from Jane Austen, to Agatha Christie, to repertory theatre and classic television to Merchant Ivory and so many more besides – and given it a complete overhaul for the 21st century, borrowing from the compelling story lines of soap opera to the quality writing and production values of contemporary US television shows. *Downton Abbey* has proved that a British show can become a domestic US hit and have the same reach globally as the biggest and best American shows.

"I'm pleased that Downton is more popular around the world than many of the most respected shows that we revere here in Britain. That in turn has brought the attention of US studios, networks and agents towards British acting, writing and directing talent more than ever before.

"This is powerful, exportable television content and so from a commercial point of view, I certainly think we've changed the landscape. The final piece of the commercial jigsaw is that we've waved the flag for British culture, tourism and exports that goes way beyond the television programme itself and that's something that is tremendously important to me."

■ **LAST HURRAH: The cast of Downton Abbey contemplate the final chapter of their story.**

It's tremendously important too to the makers of sherry. The Downton Effect has seen sherry sales soar by 15 per cent since the saga began, with the sales of port rapidly booming too and now set to overtake sherry for the first time since Dickens' day.

The butler business is in boom time also as the rich of the world are now clamouring to hire their own Carson, including in the most previously-unlikely of places.

Sara Vestin Rahmani, who runs the Bespoke Bureau butler academy, said she's seen demand skyrocket tenfold in two years. She recently opened six academies in China, where women butlers accounted for almost one-third of trainee intake.

"There is a significant trend for the super-rich to want a piece of the kind of lifestyle they see in *Downton Abbey*", said Ms Vestin Rahmani.

The Downton Effect has also seen a surge in vintage nightwear sales as we all rush to copy the Crawleys. 1920s luxury lingerie brand Lucile Lingerie has reported seeing an unprecedented increase in sales – thanks, they say, to the fact that the brand's name was mentioned during the show.

Lucile Lingerie, a brand which was very popular in the 1920s and has since revived, has seen website traffic increase by 62 per cent and overall sales increase by 48 per cent because of Downton. Meanwhile, fans of the drama are raiding their attics for Twenties bling as Downton has created a craze for jewellery of the era. Bonhams, which says it handles more art deco pieces than any other auction house in the world, says the period drama created by Julian Fellowes has caused rare vintage jewellery "to soar in value". Following the return of the hit show, the auctioneers say they are now "expecting a record number of sales".

Let's hope that without the Downton Effect sales of associated merchandise do not now crash, because the end of the world of Sunday night TV is nigh and the hints are coming thick and fast that it may end with a whimper.

■ **PACE OF CHANGE: A scene from the final series.**

"For the last episode, you'll need some handkerchiefs. I needed handkerchiefs reading it," says Hugh Bonneville, Downton's Earl of Grantham.

"It wasn't because it necessarily moved me while reading it, but it was the experience of reading it when I realised it was the last time I was ever going to be reading one of those scripts. That was quite terminal. I suppose the theme is that it's the end of an era. This estate has to face an uncertain future…

"I suppose the theme is that it's the end of an era. This estate has to face an uncertain future, and that was characterised in the first episode when a friend from across the county has to sell the family silver to keep going, which so many of these estates did. These estates started eating themselves and their land because that piece of land no longer brings an income. It spirals in on itself until you ultimately have to sell the house, and that is looming on the horizon…"

Oh no, his Lordship in the workhouse? Surely not? What other twists are in store?

"Although I think a lot of the audience wants certain characters to pair up, that isn't the way it's going to be," reveals executive producer Liz Trubridge.

"We have to do what we think is right and the audience will either love us or loathe us for it."

Love or loathe? Surely Carson's and Mrs Hughes' happy day isn't going to get wrecked by Barrow speaking out at the "if any man knows of good reason why these two should not be joined together in matrimony" bit? Robert James-Collier, who plays the detestable servant, isn't saying – but he is hinting that the worst of Barrow has yet to be seen… when he slips into Carson's shoes.

"Thomas has to step into the breach as butler, and the moment that happens he's at his most paranoid and acerbic. Becoming butler only makes it ten times worse! We see him smugly sitting in Mr Carson's chair and he's not exactly nice in the way that he orders people to go about his business," says Robert. "He's perceiving people to be nasty towards him, so he's giving it back to them, using his temporary role as butler to inflict pain."

'Temporary role'? Ah, that's good; so presumably the new Mr and Mrs Carson will just go off for a couple of episodes on honeymoon?

"Who knows what will happen? There might be a huge fire…" says Phyllis Logan, who plays Elsie Hughes.

A huge fire? Is that the way that Barrow dies? Because the insinuations are floating that he might be due to come a cropper, as Robert James-Collier reveals.

"At the first read-through for this last series Julian said to me, 'I hope you're prepared to be the tragic hero', so that could mean anything, couldn't it?" said Robert.

"Am I going to die? I don't know. Listen, I don't have any – and never had - any expectations for Thomas. Like I've always said, he's been one of the more complex characters so he's always had these tremendous roller coaster rides. It's all or nothing with Thomas and this season it very much continues in that vein."

'No expectations'? Crikey. Then it might be worth the while of Downton fans to get down to Ladbrokes for a canny wager on Barrow copping it. Ladbrokes have not opened a book on that possibility yet, although they are quoting odds on all sorts of other endings.

The current odds are:

■ *Evens Lady Edith to marry Gregson.*

■ *3/1 Lady Mary to marry a new character.*

■ *5/1 Mrs Hughes to be let go.*

■ *5/1 Lord Grantham to sell Downton and a new resident to move in.*

■ *10/1 Mr Carson to be let go.*

Three to one on Cupid coming for Lady Mary? Surely that's a tryst with Henry Talbot, the dashing racing driver? Or is it?

"Romantic love plays an even more significant role than I expected when we first embarked on this series and it has become one of the principal driving forces of it – and romantic stories require resolution," says Gareth Neame. But Michelle Dockery, who plays Lady Mary, hints that it might not be as simple as that – and that doom may loom for her ladyship's lovelife.

"Mary was instantly attracted to Henry at the end of series five. He intrigues her but she's put off by his lifestyle and the fact that he's a racing car driver. His lack of wealth is a bit of an issue but it's mainly his racing that is getting in the way because of how she lost Matthew," says Michelle. "But she's a rebel at heart and Henry is also a rebel and she's attracted to that in him. Although…"

Here we go.

"Although what appears to be a good relationship for Mary, seemingly moving in the right direction, takes a cruel turn that sends Mary to a dark place again."

And it seems that Lady Mary is intent on taking her sister down to the dark place with her. Will Lady Edith's dearly-kept secret of her daughter Marigold be shockingly outed by Lady M?

"Things are starting to go very well for Edith; She's running the magazine, gaining independence in London and the situation with Marigold seems to have sorted itself out," says Michelle. "Edith's having a great time – but Mary is just so jealous and she wants to ruin it for Edith…"

And what of Lady Rosamund, will Downton all end happily ever after for her?

"Well I'm speculating about whether Rosamund could find love with Dr Clarkson," says Samantha Bond, who says she has "had a blast" in the part for the past six years.

"That would be quite a good match-up, wouldn't it? I had thoughts of starting a Twitter campaign to make it happen!

"But what I do know is that most of the loose ends will be wrapped up, because Julian Fellowes has said as much."

Or has he…..?

Downton's executive producer Gareth Neame has hinted that although the saga 'ends' on November 8th, with a final 'that's it, all finished' ending in a Christmas special, we may not have seen the last of *Downton Abbey* even then.

"The idea that the TV show might come back in some form is really not something that I've contemplated," says Neame.

"But I'm sure John Hawkesworth, the producer of the original *Upstairs Downstairs*, never dreamt that some 30 years later that show would be revived – so you never know…"

■ **Downton Abbey**
ITV, Sunday 9pm

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

Making food part of your armoury to beat cancer

IT might be one of the less talked about elements of breast cancer, but with treatments often causing side-effects like exhaustion, reduced appetite, soreness of mouth and an upset stomach, mealtimes can be a minefield.

And all those conflicting reports in the media about which foods might cause cancer and which might prevent it, don't do much to help.

Sensing the understandable confusion among his patients, Professor Mohammed Keshtgar, a consultant breast cancer specialist at London's Royal Free hospital, set to work on *The Breast Cancer Cookbook*, a collection of scientifically-informed , nutritious and enjoyable recipes, which he promises are "simple, easy to cook and easy to understand".

"We advise things like cool smoothies and avoiding spicy or sour foods that can irritate ulcers," adds Keshtgar. "We also advise plenty of fluids during this period [of treatment] and food with a stronger flavour, so while [patients might] have issues with the taste sensation, they can still enjoy their food as much as possible."

The book also clears up some commonly held myths.

"A lot of people stop taking dairy [when they're diagnosed with breast cancer]," says the professor. "We think that's not right. We don't think dairy can cause or promote breast cancer.

"Dairy is a very important source of calcium, especially for patients who are undergoing treatment for breast cancer; the tablets given to them can sometimes cause weakness of the bones."

Generally speaking, he does recommend eating more pulses and soy, whose structure "resembles the structure of oestrogen without any of the hormonal values", and is thought to help offer a "protective effect" against breast cancer by "preventing cancer cell growth".

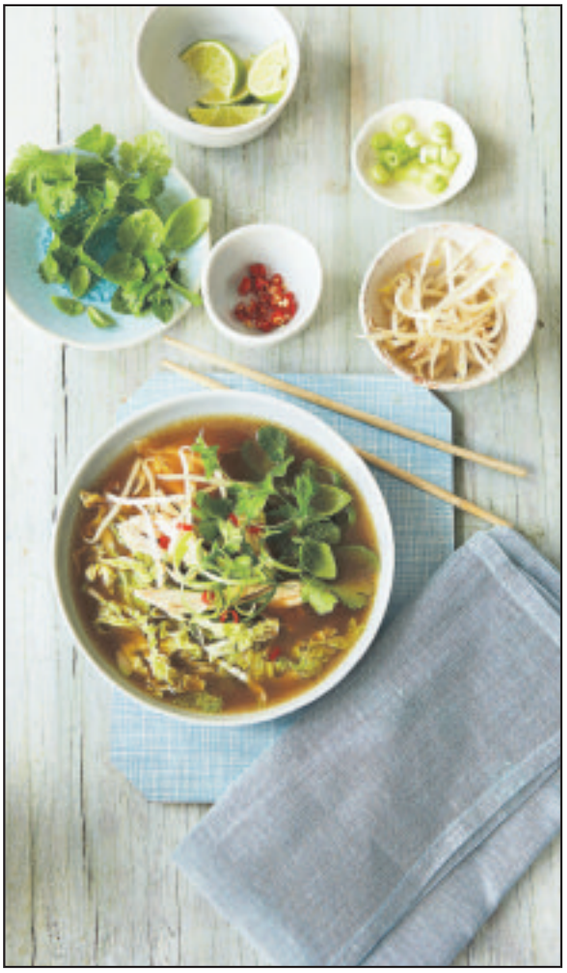
But the recipes aren't solely aimed at people who've been diagnosed with breast cancer; they could be part of anybody's healthy lifestyle and in that sense, Keshgtar hopes, aid in the prevention of the disease.

On this front, he notes that eating plenty of fibre and keeping fat intake – especially saturated fat - low, is important, as well as "being physically active".

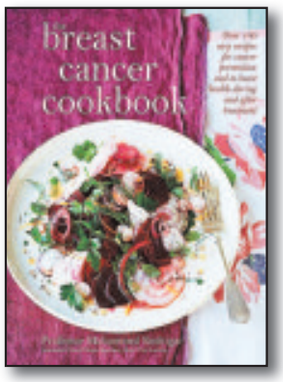
"The recommendations are quite simple," says Keshgtar. "What we emphasise is that people should be taking in balanced diets.

"We hope the book will go a long way for patients and give them another resource to refer to," he adds.

"The effects of diet and lifestyle are long-standing; it just doesn't happen within days and months. But if one changes the actual habit over a long period of time, it's another factor that we can at least use in the prevention of development of cancer."



■ INVIGORATING: Vietnamese chicken soup.



Here are two recipes from the book to try at home...

MEXICAN EGGS

(Serves two)

4 very fresh medium eggs, refrigerated; 60g cherry tomatoes, quartered; 1 avocado, halved, stoned, peeled and sliced; juice of 1/2 lime; 2tbsp coriander leaves, roughly chopped; a pinch of dried chilli flakes (optional); 2 slices of sourdough or other rustic bread; freshly ground black pepper

For the poached eggs, fill a non-stick frying pan with a 4cm depth of water and bring to a simmer. Crack the eggs into a small bowl or ramekins and tip them, one at a time, into the water. Allow to simmer gently for three minutes, then carefully remove with a slotted spoon and drain on kitchen paper.

Meanwhile, in a bowl, toss together the cherry tomatoes, avocado, lime juice, most of the coriander and the chilli flakes, if using, and set aside.

Toast the bread and place a slice on each warmed plate. Spoon on the avocado mix, then top with the poached eggs, allowing two per person. Sprinkle with the remaining coriander, a little pepper and an extra touch of chilli, if required.

VIETNAMESE CHICKEN SOUP

(Serves four to six)

For the broth:

2 onions, peeled and halved; 4cm piece of fresh ginger, peeled and roughly sliced; 2 cinnamon sticks; 1tsp black peppercorns; 3 star anise; 1 oven-ready medium chicken (about 1.5kg); 1 carrot, peeled and roughly chopped; 2 celery sticks, roughly chopped; 1.5L good quality, low-salt chicken stock (preferably fresh)

For the soup:

1 Chinese cabbage, shredded; 1tbsp fish sauce; 2tsp maple syrup; 6 spring onions, sliced; 100g beansprouts; a handful each of mint, coriander and basil leaves; 1 red chilli, sliced (optional)

To serve:

Lime wedges

Pre-heat the grill to high. Lay the onions and ginger out on a grill tray and grill for four to five minutes, turning occasionally, until tinged with brown.

Transfer the onion and ginger to a large stockpot or flameproof casserole dish (large enough to hold a whole chicken) and add the cinnamon, peppercorns and star anise. Place the chicken in the pot and tuck the carrot and celery around it. Pour over the stock and top up with enough water to just cover the chicken. Place over a medium heat and bring to the boil. Turn the heat down slightly and simmer very gently for 50 minutes to one hour, or until the chicken is completely cooked through and tender. Remove the chicken from the pot and set aside to cool slightly. Reduce the stock down by boiling if necessary, until you have 1.2L. Strain. Peel off and discard the skin from the chicken, then remove the meat from the bone and shred into bite-sized pieces. Return the stock to the heat and add the Chinese cabbage, fish sauce and maple syrup. Simmer for one minute. Ladle the soup into warm bowls, add a portion of chicken meat to each bowl, then scatter over the spring onions, beansprouts, herbs and chilli, if using. Serve with lime wedges for squeezing.

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

French toast with strawberries

Serves four

FRENCH toast makes a great brunch or special breakfast dish and can be either sweet or savoury.

If you are going sweet, you can top the toast with a mixture of seasonal fruits or even a compote that you might have knocking around.

4 slices of brioche (or bread)
2 medium eggs, beaten
2tbsp caster sugar
100ml milk
A few drops of vanilla essence
100-120g butter
150-200g strawberries, hulled
4tbsp crème fraîche or clotted cream

Whisk the eggs, sugar, milk and vanilla together, lay the brioche on a deep tray and pour the egg mixture over and leave for 20 minutes.

Heat the butter in a preferably non-stick frying pan until foaming, carefully remove the brioche from the tin with a fish slice, and cook for about 2 minutes on each side, until golden.

To serve, transfer on to serving plates, spoon the crème fraîche on top and scatter the strawberries over.

■ BREAKFAST TREAT: French toast with strawberries, to a Mark Hix recipe.

Talk Of The Town

Music I Theatre I Reviews

OOPS: The Mischief Theatre Company star in a play that goes wrong.

COMIC TWIST: Everything goes wrong when the Mischief Theatre Company are on stage.

Hello Kitty

THE world premiere of a brand new show by the international superstar feline, Hello Kitty is set to thrill audiences at the Eventim Apollo, Hammersmith on October 8.

For the first time ever, fans of all ages will be given the chance to physically enter the world of Hello Kitty as she takes to the stage live and in 3D for *Hello Kitty Live – Fashion and Friends* – the latest development in the continuing evolution of this global super brand.

Set in modern-day London, Hello Kitty is a young girl who is full of dreams and ambition for her future. But before she can get there, she is faced with a challenge ahead. Luckily Hello Kitty is not alone and with the help of her fantastic friends, including My Melody, Dear Daniel and Mimmy, she will take on this amazing opportunity that can change her life forever!

Players prove many wrongs make a right

By NICKY SWEETLAND
LWN Theatre Critic

ONE of the absolute joys of live theatre is the risk that at any moment something could happen which completely changes the performance.

The Mischief Theatre Company have been entertaining crowds with their hilarious take on this idea now for two wonderful years and the Olivier Award-winning hit has extended its booking period, with tickets going on sale until September 11, 2016. Such has been the appeal of the show that for a limited run over the festive season at the Apollo Theatre, the original cast of *The Play That Goes Wrong* will bring their trademark comic mayhem to the J M Barrie classic and timeless favourite, *Peter Pan*.

As a staunch supporter of am-dram and former performer I thought it was about time I got along to the Duchess Theatre to see what all the fuss was about. Before watching the show I was treated to a chat with one of the new cast members, Niall Ransome, who told me about his role in the slapstick masterpiece.

"I play Dennis, who plays Perkins the Butler, who works at Haversham Manor, which is where the play within the play is set. Dennis is a very fun character to play, purely because he goes through the most pain in the play. He's joined the company to try and make friends and every time he gets something wrong he loses a friend, basically."

The plot follows the Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society as they endeavour to stage a corny old murder mystery, a play-within-a-play. As the title would suggest, pretty much everything that could possibly go wrong does and with exquisitely timed and fabulously written consequences. Filled with physical comedy and a clever use of the set, the play actually has to be perfect in order for all of the calamities to take place.

Niall added: "I've never done a play in my life where everything is so meticulously planned to where you stand on stage to where you look. All the characters at every moment think it can only get better so the fact that it gets worse is something that just drives the play through."

There's no doubt that as an amateur performer, I empathised with so much of the on-stage antics, from lines going around in a circle to breaking sets and missing props. For most, the bloopers become what binds your team of performers together and makes for the best and most interesting post-show anecdotes. Although the show has broad appeal both to different age groups and to those who don't perform, Niall told me that many of their audience come from the non-professional theatre world.

"I think a lot of people who get into acting have their beginnings in am-dram, and through doing this show we've met a lot of people afterwards who are from am-dram companies."

In *Peter Pan Goes Wrong*, the members of The Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society once again battle against technical hitches, flying mishaps and cast disputes on their way to Neverland with hilarious and disastrous results.

Producer Kenny Wax said: "As producers we are well aware of the negative publicity surrounding West End ticket pricing, but with *Peter Pan Goes Wrong* we have instigated a policy, 'never to be beaten on price'.

"So, we have ensured that we have at least two tickets per performance available for £12,350 each. If, for any reason these do not sell in advance, they will be available on the day of performance for £10."

The Play That Goes Wrong continues at the Duchess Theatre. Visit: theplaythatgoeswrong.com

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Talk Of The Town

london Listings

Frieze Arts Fair, Regent's Park
October 14 to 17
Established in 2003 by the founders of frieze magazine, Matthew Slotover and Amanda Sharp, Frieze London is one of the world's leading art fairs and takes place each October in Regent's Park, London. Frieze London 2015 will feature two curated gallery sections, Live and Focus, plus the annual Frieze Projects programme curated by Nicola Lees. In 2012 Frieze established two further art fairs, Frieze New York, which takes place on Randall's Island, Manhattan each May, and Frieze Masters, which coincides with Frieze London and is dedicated to art from ancient to modern.Tickets hotline 0871 230 3452

RHS London Harvest Festival Show
October 6 and 7
The show is held in the RHS Lindley Halls, between 10am–9pm (6 October) and 10am–5pm (7 October). RHS London Harvest Late is on between 6pm–9pm (6 October). See, taste and buy mouth-watering produce at the RHS London Harvest Festival Show, a foodie feast celebrating the taste of autumn. The show is the perfect place to get ideas and inspiration on late summer gardening and growing fruit and vegetables. This year the show will return to the traditional harvest theme. To book tickets, visit rhs.org.uk/shows or call 0844 338 7502

Importance of Being Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre
To November 7
David Suchet stars as Lady Bracknell in Oscar Wilde's much loved masterpiece. Directed by Adrian Noble, Wilde's superb satire on Victorian manners is one of the funniest plays in the English language – the delightful repartee and hilarious piercing of hypocrisy and pomposity can still make you laugh out loud. www.importanceofearnest.com

Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium
To October 10th
The iconic music of Frank Sinatra is brought to life at one of the capital's most iconic venues in Sinatra: The Man and His Music at the London Palladium. This multi-media concert, which has the support and endorsement of the singer's family, marks the centenary of Sinatra's birth and features his greatest hits including Fly Me To The Moon, New York, New York and My Way.

Hamlet at the Barbican Theatre
To October 31
Directed by Lyndsey Turner and starring Benedict Cumberbatch. Benedict Cumberbatch takes on the title role in Shakespeare's great tragedy. Directed by Lyndsey Turner (Posh, Chimerica) and produced by Sonia Friedman Productions, the Barbican presents an exclusive 12-week run of this compelling new production in summer 2015.

The World Goes Pop at the Tate Modern
Until January 24, 2016
Over 200 works by artists from Latin America to Asia celebrates the many faces of pop art. This show isn't about the pop art you know, it's about the pop art that escaped the history books. And it certainly packs a punch. It's fun, engaging, colourful, revelatory, opinionated, racy and stunning. Most importantly the show illuminates how pop wasn't confined to Andy Warhol's Factory in New York or Richard Hamilton's studio in London – it was a phenomenon that reached much further, practiced by artists in Peru, Israel, Argentina, Japan, Brazil and Eastern Europe.
In an opening gallery painted scintillating red, the work quite literally pops off the walls. Here, traditional techniques are turned on their head, such as Japanese woodblock printing in Ushio Shinohara's 'Doll Festival', (1966) which is reinvigorated with the use of industrial materials like Perspex.
Moving on, you'll find the mimicry of media and the language of mass production, the repetition of advertising strategies and consumerist logos, the appropriation of icons from popular culture, the re-evaluation of the role of women and the subversion of political symbolism. It makes for a riveting, eye-opening group exhibition that re-educates us on a movement that really reached out to embrace us – and continues to do so.
The Brazilian military dictatorship of the 1960s is confronted in Marcello Nitsche's giant flyswatter, ready and waiting to squish the tyrannical regime. Pop stars from western magazines are reimagined as the friends of Romanian artist Cornel Brudaşcu in his exquisite paintings. Basically everywhere you turn, the work is assessing the social, cultural and political terrain in which it was created. Women artists have been most notably omitted from the canon of pop art, so it's reassuring that the two female curators have made sure to rebalance the status quo. Naked women become domestic white goods in Martha Rosler's brilliantly critical photomontages.

London Literature Festival
To October 12th
Feeling curious? Journey into the unexpected this autumn. Stories are vessels which take us into the uncharted waters of other lives and minds and worlds, changing us along the way. We come to literature so it can tell us something we don't already know. This year's London Literature Festival embraces the spirit of adventure and welcomes you to explore the world through words. There's everything from dramatic mass readings and playful debates to literary cocktail hours, one-off commissions and a Young Adult literature mini festival. Festival highlights include the world premiere of a collaborative book by PJ Harvey and Seamus Murphy, an immersive, multimedia journey through Terry Gilliam's imagination, and a spectacular four-day performed reading of Herman Melville's Moby-Dick.

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POTENTIAL: Ushers appealed to our critic, Nicky Sweetland.

Front runners may have a hit here

Ushers: The Front of House Musical ***

FRESH from great success at the Edinburgh Fringe festival, the new musical *Ushers: The Front of House Musical* has hit the West End by storm with its mix of sentimentality and fun – and it is definitely one to watch for the future, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

Set in a theatre the plot follows a front of house team, most of whom are frustrated out of work actors as they facilitate the public in their enjoyment of a terrible new jukebox musical based on the life of Britney Spears.

With a bullying, evil theatre manager the employees struggle to find their paths in this funny and engaging show.

Although it does still feel like it's in development, all of the elements are there for a very entertaining production with some great songs, nice little plot twists and some really rather silly interactions between the strong young cast.

It has touches of some of the big-hit comedy musicals such as *The Book Of Mormon* and *Urinetown*, but hasn't quite got to grips with how to use the downright ludicrous in the correct manor, with often the comedy feeling a little too pantomime.

That said, it is a good start and with some more work, I think *Ushers: The Front of House Musical* could have the potential of being a great audience-pleasing show.

It is running at the Arts Theatre until October 18. For more details visit the theatre website *artstheatrewestend.co.uk*

Nation can enjoy Barber of Seville

ENO Screen is set to broadcast *The Barber of Seville* live from the London Coliseum on Monday, October 19 at 7.30pm in cinemas across the UK and Ireland, and selected cinemas worldwide.

Rossini's comic masterpiece – a prequel to the story of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* – returns to the London Coliseum in Jonathan Miller's elegant and much-loved production.

Now in its 12th revival, and described as a "national institution" by *The Sunday Telegraph*, this Tiepolo-inspired staging makes brilliant interplay between Italian commedia dell'arte and Whitehall farce.

Transporting audiences back to 18th century Seville, this sunny adventure follows the escapades of the barber Figaro as he assists Count Almaviva to prise the beautiful yet feisty Rosina away from her lecherous guardian Dr Bartolo.

ENO favourite Andrew Shore returns as Bartolo, giving free rein to his peerless comic gifts and timing. The 2014-15 ENO season saw him delight London Coliseum audiences as Major General Stanley in Mike Leigh's production of The Pirates of Penzance.

Australian baritone Morgan Pearse will return to sing the title role for the first time after his ENO debut in Terry Gilliam's five-star production of *Benvenuto Cellini*.

British mezzo-soprano and former ENO Harewood artist Kathryn Rudge sings her first Rosina. She made her professional opera debut as Cherubino in Fiona Shaw's ENO production of *The Marriage of Figaro* at ENO in 2011 and was featured as the Rising Star of Classical Music in *The Times* in 2012.

Pearse will by joined by Eleazar Rodriguez (Count Almaviva) who makes his ENO debut and is frequently praised for his portrayals of leading roles in operas by Donizetti, Rossini and Mozart, Rodriguez is a recipient of the Placido Domingo voice scholarship given by Sociedad Internacional de Valores de Arte Mexicano, Mexico's most renowned young artist programme.

ENO Harewood artist and 2013 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World finalist Katherine Broderick returns as Berta. She is joined by ENO Harewood artist Barnaby Rea as Don Basilio. British baritone Matthew Durkan will make his ENO debut as Fiorello. Upcoming conductor Christopher Allen, currently associate conductor of the Los Angeles Opera, will make his UK debut conducting Rossini's sparkling score. He made his Asian debut conducting *The Barber of Seville* at the Daegu Opera House in 2014.

Altive Media's live cinema broadcast of Mike Leigh's operatic debut for English National Opera, *The Pirates of Penzance,* is the highest-grossing live opera event in cinemas and other venues across the UK.

ENO Screen, a partnership between Altive Media, the UK's leading producer and distributor of alternative content, and English National Opera, was launched in 2013. ENO Screen's live cinema broadcasts are as distinctive as ENO's live work in the theatre, creating a unique cinematic experience for audience members across the globe. Multiple HD cameras provide unusual angles and close-up views of the action on stage and in the orchestra pit, giving a true cinematic experience for audiences.

The Barber of Seville is sung and subtitled in English. Running time: 2 hours, 50mins.

Talk Of The Town

EXCEPTIONAL: Sally Messham as Nan.

Titillating view of female relationships

Tipping the Velvet ***

THE Lyric Hammersmith hosts the world premiere of the highly anticipated production of *Tipping the Velvet* this month.

The play, written by Laura Wade, is an adaptation of the 1998 novel of the same name by Sarah Waters and follows Nancy, a young Victorian woman who falls in love with a male impersonator and embarks on a journey of sexual discovery – with some hilarious and quite surprising ends.

We are guided by chairman-cum-MC David Cardy, who inducts us into the visually captivating ensemble-led show. Some of the Lyric's own youth contingent make up part of the supporting cast, who perform the cleverly intertwined modern music in a very traditional music hall style.

The tone is unusual and it does take time for the dialogue and story to gather pace but, lead by the truly exceptional Sally Messham as Nan, the titillating content is performed with plenty of fun and frivolity. The act one aerial sexual sequences are really spectacular and along with some amusing prop use, make for a highly entertaining first half.

Laura Rogers shows real class as Burlington Bertie Kitty, who originally captures Nan's heart, only to break it when she decides to marry their manager – leaving Nan both confused and destitute. Following some tempestuous tangles in Soho, Nan learns she has a very 'musical' talent for the sex trade, and in a fabulously designed sequence puts it to good use as she plays her punters in order to pay her way.

Unfortunately, much of the exuberance fizzles out in act two when Nan first becomes the pet of an aristocrat and then settles down with the really rather dull hospital charity worker. With the play lasting for nearly three hours, the story feels needlessly drawn out and without the spectacle of act one, lost me for parts of the final sequences.

This is however, a good piece of work, and does well in its explanation of the history of female relationships. It would just be more enjoyable if it were half an hour shorter.

Tipping the Velvet runs until October 24. For more details on the production visit the website *lyric.co.uk*

LONG HAUL: Tipping the Velvet felt 'drawn out' at three hours long.

Sam finds a place alongside legends

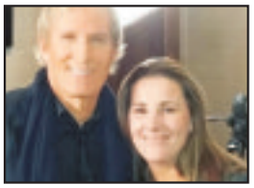
THE 2013 *X Factor* winner Sam Bailey will take to the West End stage next week for a concert at the Lyric, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The singer, who achieved a coveted Christmas number one in the same year with her single *Skyscraper,* will be joined by a multitude of special guests for the musical theatre extravaganza on October 12.

I caught up with the former prison officer at her home, where she told me how the concert had been the idea of her agent, and to start with, she wasn't sure if she was up to it. After being convinced that she was more than good enough, Sam agreed and the wheels were set in motion for the event, which will see the singer perform in the West End for the first time.

"He (Sam's agent) came back to me and said they'd found a venue and that it would be great for me to do a taster so people can see you in a completely different light. I was thinking it was going to be some shed-like theatre in the fringe or something. Then he said it's at the Lyric and it's huge. The more we spoke about it, the more it became a reality and the next thing you know I'm being introduced to some amazing West End shows and songs."

Sam is no stranger to the West End and is actually a big fan of the smash hit musical *Les Miserables*, which has been playing at the Queens Theatre. She hinted at performing at least one song from the show (which she has seen 18 times), but remained tight-lipped about exactly which one. Although loving the 30-year-old Boubil and Schoenberg masterpiece, Sam admitted that she did need some help when it came to learning about some of the older musical theatre classics.



BIG MOMENT: Sam Bailey with Michael Bolton.

"I've had some inspiration from Elaine Paige and some of the stuff that she's done and Bernadette Peters, another legend in musical theatre. I've been introduced to some Sondheim as well, which is something that I've never experienced before. It's been incredible to be introduced to it and all of a sudden it's won me over."

Sam will be joined by winners of *Britain's Got Talent*, Collabro, two-time Olivier Award nominee, Michael Xavier, and US musical theatre composer, Scott Alan. No stranger to sharing the stage with superstars, Sam supported international singing sensation Beyoncé on the UK leg of her world tour in 2014.

"It was incredible. I was just backstage in a little shed and came out and sang my bit and then went and watched her show. When people say you supported Beyoncé I say no, I just nicked her crowd for the night, and what a crowd they were. There were 10,000 just standing plus the others all around the sides as well. I'm really grateful I got the opportunity to do that."

I ask Sam if she would class that as her career highlight to date, or perhaps the Christmas number one. She didn't hesitate for a second with her reply.

"Opening the National Television Awards with Michael Bolton. That was just amazing. He is just incredible, I love that guy. If I could have any other mentor other than Sharon (Osbourne) it would be Michael. He's very inspiring. I now call him a mate and I've got loads of things to show for it."

As for aspirations for after the concert, Sam didn't rule out the move into musical theatre, but also has another singing star she would like to collaborate with.

"I'd really, really love to duet with Alfie Bow. That's one of my big things that I'd like to do."

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6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday, 27th October 2015 and last for 3 day. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 25th day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
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Dated this 30th day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
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5. The Order would come into operation on Saturday, 3rd October 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday, 3rd October 2015 and last for 2 days, with backup dates are scheduled for Saturday 10th October 2015 or Saturday 17th October 2015. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 21st day of September 2015

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

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Dated this 18th day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(SHEPHERD'S BUSH ROAD II)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate scaffolding works in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which suspends certain waiting and loading restrictions in the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the waiting and loading restrictions on the east side of Shepherds Bush Road outside Granville Mansions will be suspended from Monday to Saturday between the hours of 10am and 4pm to allow loading and unloading in connection with the scaffolding works at Granville Mansions, Shepherd's Bush Road only.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on Monday, 5th October 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence in 3 phases between Monday, 5th October 2015 and Monday, 7th March 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 18th day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(GOLDHAWK ROAD II)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate development works in the above named road, it made an Order the effect of which suspends a section of bus lane in Goldhawk Road.
2. Whilst works are in progress or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the eastbound bus lane in Goldhawk Road between Wingate Road and Paddenswick Road will be suspended.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 will not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the Tuesday 6th October 2015 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 6th October 2015 and last until 4th December 2015. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 18th day of September 2015.

Chris Bainbridge
Head of Transport Policy & Network Management
Transport & Technical Services

Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

h&f putting residents first

Local Planning ApplicationsLondon Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990 I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
Gloucester House
194 Hammersmith Road W6 2015/04346/FUL
Conversion of the existing garage to offices Class (B1); erection of a single storey extension to the garage; erection of a covered walkway link from the new office space to the main building.
7 Shepherd's Bush Road W6 2015/04536/FUL
Change of use of the basement and ground floor from Class A2 (professional and financial services)and ancillary B1 (office) to a two bedroom self contained residential unit; replace existing door and windows to the Shepherd's Bush Road road elevation; replace existing window on the Minford Gardens elevation with new obscured window and a new entrance door.
110 - 112 Hammersmith Road W6 2015/04268/ADV
Display of three A boards on pavement outside premises.
Bus Shelter Outside Travel Inn Capital London 3 - 5 Putney Bridge Approach SW6 2015/04353/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Opposite 5 Putney Bridge Approach London 2015/04354/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Former BBC Television Centre Wood Lane London W12 2015/04440/ADV
Display of temporary advertisements on additional 'in fill' hoarding, with illuminated continuous logo line, attached to the site hoarding structure on the Wood Lane boundary of the Television Centre development site.
Cambridge House 100 Cambridge Grove W6 2015/04140/FUL
External works to existing office buildings including; the introduction of two ground floor incubator units and an ancillary cafe unit; a new reception area with an extended canopy off the east elevation; replacement full height glazing windows on the south and north elevations of the entrance block; a roof terrace to the second floor; the introduction of new doors throughout the ground floor of the buildings and external soft and hard landscaping.
10 Redmore Road W6 2015/03331/FUL
Demolition of existing part single, part two storey back addition to be replaced with a new two storey back addition and the erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the proposed back addition.
Flat C 53 Reporton Road SW6 2015/04530/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; and installation of 2no. rooflights in the front roofslope.
18 - 22 Vanston Place SW6 2015/04548/FUL
Continued use of the ground floor as a shop/wine bar (Class A1/A4)
15 Peterborough Road SW6 2015/03902/FUL
Erection of a front roof extension; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony in the rear roofslope; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the creation of a new basement.
London Grove Hotel
102 Hammersmith Grove W6 2015/04463/VAR
Variation of condition 13 of planning permission ref: 2014/05434/FUL granted 9th January 2015 to allow windows at the rear to be made of sliding sash aluminium frame construction.
Brook Green Hotel 170 Shepherd's Bush Road W6 2015/04508/FUL
Erection of a two storey glass and steel outdoor garden seating feature; erection of new external staircase in connection with access onto garden seating feature.
125 Sulgrave Road W6 2015/03284/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 3no rooflights in the front roofslope; formation of a roof terrace at third floor level to the rear elevation; erection of a two storey rear extension at first and second floor level; bricking up of 1no window to the side of rear back additions at first and second floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; installation of a new window to replace the existing door at the side of single storey back addition; excavation of the the front, rear and side gardens to form front and side lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement; conversion of the existing single family dwellinghouse into 3 x two bedroom self-contained flats.
19 Ashchurch Park Villas W12 2015/04427/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition; installation of French doors and a Juliet balcony to replace existing window to the rear elevation at first floor level; installation of bi-folding doors to replace existing window and door to the rear elevation at ground floor level; removal of existing entrance door to first floor flat to the side elevation at ground floor level with blocking up of doorway being with brickwork; and conversion of property from 2no. self-contained flats into a single family dwellinghouse.
Bus Stop Outside Riverbank House 1
Maisonette Basement And Ground 68 Cathnor Road W12 2015/04537/FUL
Conversion of existing maisonette into a two bedroom flat at lower ground floor level and a studio flat at upper ground floor level; erection of a rear extension to replace existing to the rear elevation at upper ground floor level; erection of a single storey rear extension at lower ground floor level; and installation of a new front door to replace existing to the front elevation at lower ground floor level.
Putney Bridge Approach London 2015/04355/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
97 - 99 King Street W6 2015/04482/ADV
Display of 1no internally illuminated fascia sign and 1no double sided internally illuminated projecting sign to the front elevation.
Bus Shelter South Of 452 Fulham Road London 2015/04380/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter South Of Fulham Broadway
Methodist Church 452 Fulham Road London 2015/04379/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside 486 Fulham Road London 2015/04378/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside C Block Peabody
Estate Fulham Palace Road W6 2015/04377/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside 4 Moore Park Road London 2015/04376/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside Hammersmith Station (Hammersmith And City Line) Beadon Road W6 2015/04375/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside 30 - 32 Fulham High Street London 2015/04370/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside Shepherds Bush
Baptist Church Shepherd's Bush Road London 2015/04369/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Opposite 63 Wood Lane London 2015/04368/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside 78 Uxbridge Road London 2015/04367/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside 88 - 90 Uxbridge Road W12 2015/04366/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside 1 - 24 Robert Owen House Fulham Palace Road London 2015/04365/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Opposite 15 Clifford Haigh House Fulham Palace Road London 2015/04364/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter On South-East Boundary Of Eel Brook Common Opposite 93 New King's Road London 2015/04362/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter West Of Brook Green Shepherd's Bush Road London 2015/04361/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside Arthur Henderson House Fulham Road SW6 2015/04360/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside Ticket Machine Outside 197 Uxbridge Road London 2015/04359/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Opposite 231 New King's Road London 2015/04358/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
20A Thornfield Road W12 2015/04467/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at second floor level.
Bus Shelter Outside White City Underground Station Wood Lane W12 2015/04357/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
Bus Shelter Outside 65 Shepherd's Bush Road London 2015/04356/ADV
Display of a freestanding internally illuminated double sided led screen on the public highway measuring 2.370 (height) x 1.338 (width) x 0.245 (depth).
397 Fulham Palace Road SW6 2015/04480/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; installation of three rooflights in the front roofslope.
49 Bishop's Road SW6 2015/03946/FUL
Excavation of the front and rear gardens to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the basement; replacement of existing glass roof over side return at ground floor level to a slate roof and three velux windows; installation of French doors and Juliette balcony in side elevation at second floor level; installation of new sash window in side elevation at ground floor level; erection of a rear roof extension; enlargement of side entrance, creation of a crossover to the side elevation facing Clonmel Road and installation of a new roller garage door.
150 Wandsworth Bridge Road SW6 2015/04297/FUL
Change of use of part of ground floor from retail (Class A1) into a self-contained residential studio flat (Class C3); erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side and rear of the existing back addition; installation of a new door to the side of single storey back addition; replacement of existing window with a new window at the rear of the retail shop at ground floor level.
22 Walham Grove SW6 2015/04520/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; erection of a single storey rear extenion at lower ground floor level to the side of the existing back addition; and excavation under the front garden to provide a small gymnasium.
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
Barons Court Station Gliddon Road W14 2015/04514/LBC
Installation of two glazed roof hatches into existing glazed windows over bridge roof.
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
Former BBC Television Centre Wood Lane W12 2015/04440/ADV
Display of temporary advertisements on additional 'in fill' hoarding, with illuminated continuous logo line, attached to the site hoarding structure on the Wood Lane boundary of the Television Centre development site.
18 - 22 Vanston Place SW6 2015/04548/FUL
Continued use of the ground floor as a shop/wine bar (Class A1/A4)
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by 27th October 2015. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
375 North End Road SW6 2015/04450/FUL
I give notice that Mr Ashok Kumar is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an extension at third floor level to house an internal staircase together with the formation of a front roof terrace at third floor level; erection of a two storey rear extension at first and second floor level over part of the existing back addition; upgrading of the existing windows at first and second floor level at the front elevation and rear elevations to include integrated trickle vents; conversion of the first and second floor level to provide 2 x one bedroom flats and 1 x one bedroom duplex flat; associated external alterations.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **27th October 2015**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.
Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL
You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.You can also E-mail comments to:
plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk
You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to
DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081 or 020 8753 1082.**

lbhf.gov.uk/planning Online
Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: **www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning**

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Public Notices

Tel: 020 8768 4939

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM

NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, regulations 11 & 26 Audit Commission Act 1998, section 14

In accordance with Regulations 11 and 26 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 notice is given that the audit of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 has been completed.

Any interested local government elector may request a copy of the statements, and any report made to the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham by its auditor, by writing to the Head of Corporate Accountancy and Capital at Room 10, Hammersmith Town Hall, King Street, London, W6 9JU, or by viewing them on the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham website, www.lbhf.gov.uk. Alternatively copies of the accounts and audit reports may be inspected and obtained by appointment at the above address. This right is conferred on local government electors by Section 14 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

25 September 2015

Hitesh Jolapara
Director for Finance
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
Town Hall
London, W6 9JU

To advertise your restaurant, bar or event, please call
020 8768 4921
London Weekly News & South London & MERCURY!

SECTION 34 LICENSING ACT 2003
Licensing Act 2003: Full Variation of a Premises Licence
Notice is hereby given that LUCKY BGP Limited has applied to the City of Westminster on 28 September 2015 to vary the premises licence for Purl London, Basement, 50-54 Blandford Street, Westminster, London WIU 7HX
The proposed variation is to
1. Remove requirement that the (1) door supervisor be SIA qualified.
2. Amend opening/closing hours as follows:
Monday to Thursday from current 17:00 - 23:30 to 17:00 - 00:00, Friday to Saturday from current 17:00 - 00:00 - 17:00 - 01:00 Sunday from current 17:00 - 22:30 - 17:00 - 23:00
3. Amend hours for provision of facilities for dancing as follows:
Monday to Thursday from current 19:00 - 23:30 to 19:00 - 00:00 Friday to Saturday from current 19:00 - 00:00 to 19:00 - 01:00 Sunday from current 17:00 - 22:30 - 19:00 - 23:00
4. Amend hours for playing of recorded music, Monday to Thursday from current 17:00 - 23:30 to 17:00 - 00:00 Friday to Saturday from current 17:00 - 00:00 to 17:00 - 01:00, Sunday from current 17:00 - 22:30 - 17:00 -23:00
5. To amend hours for retail of alcohol as follows: Monday to Thursday from current 17:00 to 23:30 to 17:00 - 00:00 Friday to Saturday from current 17:00 - 00:00 to 17:00 - 01:00 Sunday from current 17:00- 22:30 to 17:00 - 23:00
6. To amend hours for provision of late night refreshment as follows:
Monday to Thursday from current 23:00 - 23:30 to 23:00 - 00:00 Friday to Saturday from current 23:00 - 00:00 to 23:00 - 01:00.
Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by 26 October 2015 stating the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Service, 14th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1
The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting at www.westminster.gov.uk/Licensing and following the link to the public register.
The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

PLACE YOUR PREMISES LICENCE WITH US FOR ONLY £112 plus VAT
Call Candy
020 8768 4919
Deadline is Friday at 3pm

To advertise your restaurant, bar or event, please contact
020 8768 4921
London Weekly News & South London & MERCURY!

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:
1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.
2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.
To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', '(T)' etc. in the advertisement.
3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:
(a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;
(b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
(c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.
4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.
5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.
7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.
8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.
9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.
11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.
12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.
13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.
(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.
(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.
14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.
15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.
16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.
17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.
18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.
Box Numbers
Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies.
Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.
Holiday & Travel Category
All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.
Data Protection
The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.
Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Tindle Group Newspaper companies or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.
Special conditions apply with regard to the advertising of adult services, which are outlined to all persons submitting such advertisements.

LONDON WEEKLY JOBS

Call: 0208 768 4919 **Fax:** 0208 776 8863 **Email:** candy.brown@slp.co.uk

Rosendale is restless in its pursuit of excellence.

" We are a school where people are welcomed, efforts are valued, ambition is nurtured and where the potential of every child is realised." Roll 698

ROSENDALE SE21

Rosendale is an inclusive environment and has many pupils who have a range of special educational needs and disabilities. We work hard to enable all children to thrive and achieve to the best of their ability. All candidates need to be committed, reliable and flexible and able to work with children from Nursery to Year 6.

Learning Support Assistants (Level 1)

Scale 3, SP14 -17: £19,644 - £20,775 pro rata
28.75 hours a week, 8.45am - 3.45pm

You will work with a large team of people working with children with additional and complex needs who require physical, emotional and cognitive support. This will entail working both in the classroom environment and in small groups to ensure pupils have access to all learning opportunities and are independent and fulfilled.

You will be comfortable working with pupils who may have severe and complex conditions and need support with self care skills, behavioural challenges, learning, speech and language skills and social and emotional development.

This can be a very challenging but rewarding career requiring energy, compassion and determination. Excellent communication skills are essential and most importantly you will need to be flexible, as a typical week might mean supporting several different children and working alongside many professionals.

Rosendale Primary School & Children's Centre
Rosendale Road, West Dulwich, London SE21 8LR

To obtain a recruitment pack, including Job Description and Person Specification, please contact: Geraldine Pusey, School Business Manager, email gpusey@rosendale.cc or telephone 020 8670 4962.

Please send your completed application form to: Geraldine Pusey at the school address or email it to her as above.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 12 noon Monday 12th October

Interviews: Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October

Rosendale is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers and external agencies to share this commitment.

Successful candidates will be asked to apply for an Enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service. Information about the disclosure can be found at www.gov.uk/dbs and in the recruitment pack.

Lambeth aims for quality services and equal opportunities for all. www.lambeth.gov.uk

Lambeth

An 11-18 Church of England Girls' School

St Saviour's & St Olave's School

New Kent Road
London
SE1 4AN
020 7407 1843

Premises Assistant

Full -Time APTEC Scale 11 - 17 (£18612 - £20777)
Required as soon as possible

This highly successful multi-cultural comprehensive school is looking to appoint a full-time - 5 days which could include Saturdays - Premises Assistant. The successful applicant will work as part of the Premises team. Duties will include maintenance, cleaning, health and safety, security and other general site services within the school; some duties will involve physical activity such as lifting, carrying up and down stairs, ladder-work and porterage. At times, there will be a requirement to work extra hours, which will be paid according to the scale above.

Contact the school on 0207 407 1843 or email apply@ssso.southwark.sch.uk for an application pack. Closing date for applications is 12 noon, Wed 14th October 2015.

'..an outstanding school, which provides an excellent quality of education for its students' Ofsted

Our school is committed to the safeguarding of children so all our appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check. We are committed to Equal Opportunities.

CAVENDISH SCHOOL

Cavendish School is an excellent independently mixed Special School which provides a high standard of education for its students aged 11-16. The majority of students have a statement of special educational needs for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. We are a friendly school with a positive ethos and are committed to helping our students realise their full potential and obtain Entry Level and GCSE's.

SCIENCE TEACHER

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(Term Time only)

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We welcome visits to the school. Further information about this position and arrangement for visits can be made by telephoning Debbie Sycamore on **020 7394 0088.**

Our recruitment processes follows the guidance in the DfE document Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education. All staff will be required to undertake a disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service.

For an application pack please contact Debbie Sycamore on **020 7394 0088** or email Debbie at **debbie.s@cavendish-school.net.**
Lady Gomm House, 58 Hawkstone Road, London SE16 2PA
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Raining goals at both ends

IF it's goals you want, then get down to Loftus Road, where Queens Park Rangers just about got the better of Bolton Wanderers in a dramatic seven-goal thriller on Saturday.

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

After their 4-0 drubbing at Fulham, it was important that R's reacted well and their injury-time winner from Jay Emmanuel-Thomas sent the fans home happy, although QPR head coach Chris Ramsey knows his side can't keep shipping goals the way they have so far this season.

After Saturday's 4-3 home victory, QPR have now let in 20 in 10 games – the equal worst defensive record in the Championship, an indignity they share with bottom side Bristol City.

On the other hand, R's have scored more than any other team in the second tier.

Ramsey said: "Don't get me wrong, I'm delighted we've won the game. But some of our defending left a lot to be desired at times.

"But at the other end, I thought some of our attacking play was superb.

"It's a marathon of a season in the Championship, which is why we don't get carried away, win, lose or draw.

"What I will say is that the lads showed unreal character, coming from 2-0 down – and everyone loves a last-minute winner when it's in your favour, don't they?

"We've had a few last-minute goals go against us in my time here, so it's nice to get one in our favour.

"I've got to thank our fantastic fans for sticking by us, even at 2-0 down. The goal at the end was for them. The fans wanted that fourth goal, and they helped us get it.

"We haven't done it the easy way but sometimes you just have to be happy with the three points."

Bolton led 2-0 inside 11 minutes, courtesy of goals from Gary Madine and Liam Feeney.

Emmanuel-Thomas pulled a goal back two minutes later, before Leroy Fer bundled home from close range on the stroke of half-time.

Tjaronn Chery made it 3-2 with a stunning long-range strike just after the hour, only for Wellington Silva to draw the Trotters level five minutes from time.

Unstoppable

But the best was saved until last. Emmanuel-Thomas – starting his first league game of the season – smashed an unstoppable shot beyond Ben Amos at the death to seal a sensational victory.

Ramsey confirmed that Dutchman Chery was reprimanded for his show of petulance when he walked directly to the dressing room after being substituted before half-time in their previous game at Fulham.

He added: "He's apologised to me, the coaching staff and the fans and he's been very professional all week.

"He's suffered a punishment, which will remain internal, but he did very well today. It was a great strike for our third goal, a lovely finish."

Ramsey praised match-winner Emmanuel-Thomas, saying "For the last few weeks he's been in and out of the side, sometimes not even on the bench.

"He's come to see me a few times, asking if there's anything he can do to improve his game.

"Today, he showed that he's got a lot of quality. And if he maintains that work-rate, he's shown he can have a big future.

"He defended well when needed, his hold-up play was good and his second goal was just incredible."

QPR now sit 11th in the table and after a two-week break for international fixtures, they will resume with a tough assignment at fourth-placed Birmingham City on Saturday week.

Charlie Austin won't be fit in time to return at St. Andrew's, though. Austin damaged his left hamstring at Fulham and he is expected to be sidelined for approximately four weeks.

There was worse news for Jamie Mackie, who suffered a significant tear to his right hamstring in the same game which is anticipated to require eight-to-12 weeks of rehabilitation.

TJARRON Chery apologised for his petulance Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

RUBEN Loftus-Cheek is set to get his chance

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, October 17
CHELSEA v Aston Villa, 3.00
Birmingham City v QPR, 3.00
Middlesbrough v FULHAM, 3.00

SURREY wicketkeeper-batsman Ben Foakes has signed a new contract, which will keep him at The Kia Oval until the end of the 2018 season.

The 22-year-old joined Surrey from Essex last winter and helped the club win promotion to Division One of the LV = County Championship.

He has been named in the England Lions squad for their winter tour of the UAE.

"Ben has had an excellent first season at Surrey," said director of cricket Alec Stewart.

"He thoroughly deserved his selection for the England Lions squad this winter.

"He has a huge role to play over the coming years and I'm confident that his talent and performances with us will see him play for England in the future."

WITH the cricket season now completed, it's time to reflect on the 2015 statistics and see how players representing our two local county clubs fared.

Middlesex had two players in the top 10 of the first division county championship batting averages.

Adam Voges was placed third with figures of 56.38, although he played only four matches before being called up by Australia for their summer internationals.

But 10th-placed **Dawid Malan** averaged 48.38, including two centuries and three fifties.

It seems an eternity since **Kevin Pietersen** turned out for Surrey but his four-game spell was enough to see the England outcast top the second division averages with an incomparable 156.33 from his six innings.

Of much more relevance are the impressive figures of **Ben Foakes**, who finished the summer with 51.42 and fills 11th place, one ahead of Surrey team-mate **Steve Davies** (51.19).

Four other Surrey batsmen, **Rory Burns** (48.52), **Sam Curran** (47.80), **Gary Wilson** (47.71) and **Jason Roy** (47.65), also finished in the top 20 and ahead of marquee signing **Kumar Sangakkara** (45.79).

The Sri Lankan was, however, Surrey's highest-placed player in the Royal London One-Day Cup batting averages with 61.12 from eight innings. Middlesex's top-ranked ODC batsman, in ninth place, was **Dawid Malan** (67.67).

Middlesex's **Ravi Patel** was the pick of the bowlers, taking his five wickets in the one game he played at an average of 16.80 runs in 28 overs. In the second tier, top Surrey bowler was **Luke Fletcher,** whose 54 overs yielded eight wickets at an average of 19.38. **James Burke** (21.69) and **Tom Curran** (23.08) can take even more satisfaction from figures earned from 104 and 544.4 overs respectively.

County Cricket

Ben signs new deal

JOHN Simpson was Middlesex's big-hitting T20 star Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Curran bowled more than any other Division Two player.

In the Nat-West T20 Blast, Middlesex's **John Simpson** finished highest in 13th place with 45.88, five places ahead of Surrey's **Moises Henriques**, whose 42.50 came from just two innings before injury struck.

Malan also figured prominently in the T20 bowling averages. He finished third with 11.50 but that was from just 3.4 overs, whereas team-mate **Steve Finn's** 11.83 was from 23 overs.

Mourinho turns to Loftus-Cheek

Continued from back page

know what it is to play in this kind of championship and he has had no pre-season with us, he needs time to learn and adapt. At the same time, every team, except Maccabi Tel Aviv, is a team of giants. And if you don't have a minimum of five tall players who are good in the air, you are dead in set-pieces.

"If I play Azpilicueta on the right and Baba Rahman on the left and I don't play Ivanovic, I have only three tall defenders. So we have to think about all the details. And I do think about all the details."

Looking ahead to the Villa game on Saturday week, Mourinho has already decided that at least one of his regular midfielders won't be running out over the white line and could be out of the side for some time, while suggesting that youngster Rubén Loftus-Cheek will be given more game-time.

"My job is not so simple," he said. "I have to measure the situation and ask myself in difficult moments, 'what's the best thing to do – to keep more experienced players to cope better with the pressure?'

"But everyone does the same. When I did not play John Terry and played Kurt Zouma instead, the press are the first ones to say the team needs the captain, the team needs the leader, and stability and personality.

"Now with Rubén it's the same. Who can cope better with the pressure? Maybe the situation is now so negative that a young player does not feel the pressure. Maybe he feels less pressure than when the team is top of the league, fighting for the title and looking for victories to be champions.

"So now is not the time to play six kids but I think Rubén is more ready and if everything goes well in the next two weeks he will start against Aston Villa and have a run of matches to get the stability of becoming a first team choice."

Asked if it was a sad indictment of Chelsea's problems that a young player has to be brought in to save their season, Mourinho jumped on part of the question.

"It's not to save the season," he said. "I say that at the profile of the moment and the young player, it's a good moment to play him.

"My senior players won the title last season. I will not name the players but it's easy to see that some players are in difficulties and, as manager, I am in the situation where I trust them, like them and keep them . . . or drop them and change them.

"If I drop Ivanovic and play Ola Aina, you would tell me that Ivanovic did so much for this club and is a good personality with a strong mentality.

"I have that in mind too and I am not afraid of responsibilities. One of the changes I am going to do is play Rubén. Now I have to persuade him not to feel any pressure."

CHELSEA have won the Women's Super League title for the first time following their 4-0 rout of Sunderland at Staines Town FC on Sunday.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Thursday, October 8th, 2015 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

WORRYING times, but Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho insists he is the right man Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Defiant Jose will not quit

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

JOSE Mourinho is confident he can get his stumbling stars back on form and qualify for the Champions League next season.

But will he still be in charge of Chelsea for the next league game against Aston Villa?

With an international break in-between the disastrous 3-1 home defeat to Southampton last Saturday and the visit of the Villains on October 17, there is ample time for the board to wield the axe.

When LWN Sport went to press, Mourinho was still in situ and bullish in the extreme that he is still the best man to arrest Blues' run of poor form that has seen them slump to 16th in the Premier League with just eight points from eight games.

"No way will I resign, no way," he said. "Why? Because Chelsea cannot have a better manager than me. There are many managers who belong to my level, but not better. So no chance will I run away.

"There are two reasons why I won't resign. Firstly, I have my professional pride and I know that I am very good at my job. Secondly, because I like this club very much. If that's not the case, then it could be different. But add the two together and I want the best for my club, which is for me to stay . . . so I stay."

Mourinho does accept that this is the worst period of his long and illustrious managerial career.

'I'm not desperate'

"Yes, sure it is. It makes me understand how big a guy I am. That's what it makes me understand. I am not afraid. I'm not crying, I'm not desperate, I'm not afraid.

"I think I have a car there waiting for me, but if I don't have, I walk home. If my family wants I go out to have dinner outside.

"I want the next match and I am happy it is at Stamford Bridge in front of our own fans. It makes me realise how big I was, how big I am. Because when you win and you win titles and you are champion, life is easy. It's easy to be proud. It's easy to be what you are. In this moment it's not so easy and my feelings – I'm so unhappy with the sport feeling of defeat but I am so happy with myself and the way I am facing this."

Mourinho is the arch-pragmatist but is he now questioning his tactics and team selection?

"I do that all the time and I speak a lot with my people," he said "But, for example, when I recall the first-half against Southampton, where I made tactical changes, where I played Ramires and Mane doesn't touch the ball . . . Mane disappeared from the game.

"We were completely in control, the team was comfortable. We scored a set-piece that we trained for on two days, Thursday and Friday. The change at half-time to bring Nemanja Matic in, I had to do it because I'm afraid of Ramires' yellow card. Ronald Koeman did the same thing with Romeu.

"In that area of the pitch the referee was giving quite easy yellow cards. To bring in Matic was a decision based on the trust I have in the player. Maybe I was wrong because Matic, in this moment, is in trouble. But I question myself all the time."

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

With the majority of the squad suffering from a crisis of confidence, Mourinho admits that solving that problem is beyond even him.

"Only Mother Nature can do it," he admits. "In this moment I think nature. They need luck, they need to feel luck, they need to arrive at half-time winning two or three-nil.

"They need to fly without pressure, to play and feel that everything is going in their favour. Not to feel this pressure, this panic, this negativity. Decisions going against them, being unlucky, making mistakes. They need it. Time will bring it. I don't know if it will be in the next match, in two matches, or in three. They will get that confidence back, for sure."

Stamford Bridge used to be a fortress and teams would be happy leaving SW6 having escaped a thrashing. But now?

"One thing teams are not afraid of is to give us penalties. Because they make them all the time knowing referees never give them. It's a big confidence that they feel. They are not afraid to be aggressive in the box, not afraid to have duels. I always tell my players in the box to be careful. 'Don't use your hands, don't use your arms, be careful, you can be punished'. Opponents know that they don't have to feel that pressure. That, for me, is clear."

So are the players on Mourinho's side and responding to him?

Muster support

His reply is interesting and he is fairly confident that he can muster enough support from within the ranks of his squad.

"People can say what they want. I really think you should ask the players, not go with 'sources' and 'fake sources' and 'the player told this', 'the agent told that' and 'the player told a friend and the friend told the agent and the agent is not happy with me because I don't play his player'. I don't think you should do that.

"You should go straight to the players. Get a table at Cobham next week – John Terry doesn't go to the national team, Diego Costa doesn't go, Ramires doesn't go – I'll put two or three guys at your disposal and you ask them. If they tell you they don't trust me, that is the only thing that can make me resign. The only thing. But not fake sources."

Right-back Branislav Ivanovic is one player that has been targeted by opposition managers as a weak link. But Mourinho keeps picking the Serb, to the mystery of those fans who would prefer to see the quicker Cesar Azpilicueta move across the back four and take his place. But Mourinho has a simple answer: he says he has to play him.

"Look, (left-back) Baba Rahman arrived on the last day of the transfer window and because he doesn't

Continued on page 27

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fulham fume at late collapse

THE beaming smile on Kit Symons' face, which stretched as wide as the Fulham Road after his team dismantled Queens Park Rangers so comprehensively, has been replaced by an angry frown in the past week.

The 3-0 midweek home defeat by Wolves was followed on Sunday afternoon with a gut-wrenching 2-2 draw at Charlton that felt like a dismal defeat.

Goals from Ryan Tunnicliffe and Ross McCormack had put Whites on their way to what looked like a comfortable victory in south London but Fulham being Fulham, they never make life easy for themselves.

Substitute Johnnie Jackson pulled one back with 10 minutes remaining, before Jordan Cousins headed in the equaliser in the sixth minute of stoppage time.

"It's incredibly disappointing," said Fulham manager Symons. "To be 2-0 up, totally dominant and cruising, and then to throw it away is inexplicable.

"We were cruising, we were dominating the game in the second-half, we weren't in trouble at all, but we should have killed the game off. We had plenty of chances to make it 3-0 but we didn't take them and we made some poor decisions.

'Not good enough'

"Then, suddenly, we've conceded from a set-piece, a free header, and then another one later on. To have been dominating the game and then to draw it, it's not good enough.

"There are defining moments in games and we saw it here. The crowd were singing for Johnnie Jackson to come on, he made an impact and gave them a big lift. They took advantage of that while we shot ourselves in the foot."

Whites squandered several promising openings while their two-goal advantage was still intact, which made the capitulation all the more frustrating for Symons.

No team has scored more away goals in the Championship than the nine Whites have plundered in their five matches on the road. Trouble is, only Ipswich Town and Bolton Wanderers have leaked more than Fulham's nine away from The Cottage.

"We should have seen the game out and there's no excuse for not doing that," Symons went on. "Two goals is sometimes not enough and that was the case here.

"We were so on top but you've got to make that count, and we didn't. We had some lapses offensively and defensively at the end, and caused ourselves our own problems.

"If we had seen the game out that would've been four wins in six, which is good form. I think we've been playing all right, it's just getting that little bit street-wise, seeing games out and getting what we deserve from them."

Vital challenges

In truth, it could have been even worse for 13th-placed Fulham. While Cauley Woodrow spurned two chances to seal the three league points as Fulham counter-attacked in the closing minutes, Charlton also created a couple of good chances to have won it late on. Jazz Richards and Richard Stearman both made vital last-ditch challenges and keeper Andy Lonergan saved one close-range shot with his legs.

After a 13-day break, Fulham return to action on Saturday week with a tough trip to second-placed Middlesbrough.

IT'S RAINING GOALS AT RANGERS – page 27